



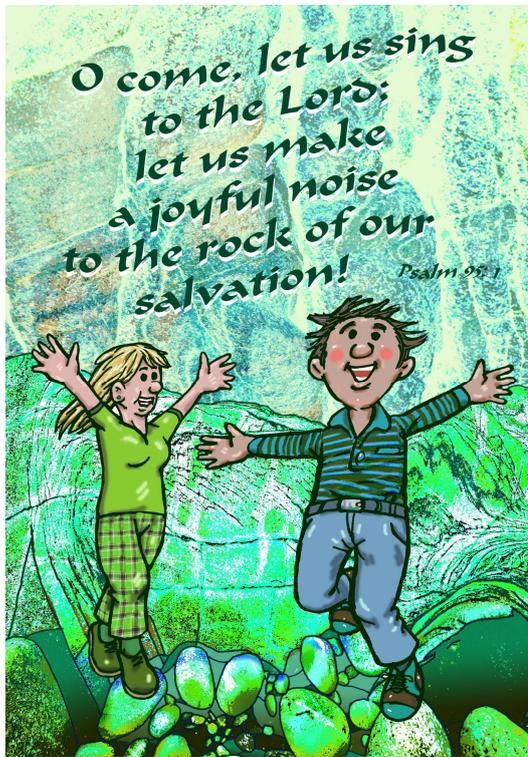
Trinity E-News



Issue 04 / 24

Trinity's email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net

May 2024



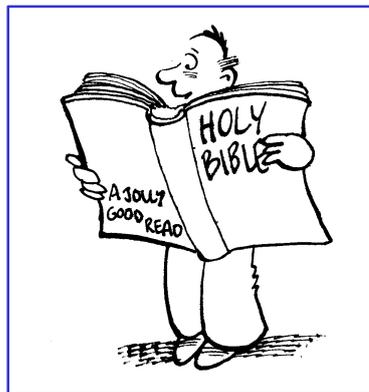
Sing to the Lord, Psalm 95.1



Pentecost -Acts 2

Our Minister is:
Revd Claire Simpson
☎: 01256 323103
email:
revclaire72@btinternet.com

Trinity & St Andrew's have merged and we all worship at St Andrew's Church, South Ham, Basingstoke.



Trinity E-News:
Deadline: June 24
issue: Sun 19 May 2024

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

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

Thank you, Hazel, Ed
(☎: 01256-461375) & **email:**
hazel@basingstokecircuit.net
16B Portacre Rise, B/Stoke,
RG218YQ

Link: Circuit Website:
www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk



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

May 2024

Dear Friends

On Sunday 19th May there will an important birthday. It's Pentecost, recognized as the birthday of the Christian Church, because it celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus's apostles (Acts 2). The Greek word Pentecost means 'fiftieth' and derives from a Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot, which is 50 days after the festival of Passover. The apostles were celebrating this festival when they received the Holy Spirit with wind and flame.

Many of us will recall the old name of Whitsun, named after the white garments worn by those baptized on that day. Whit Monday was a Bank Holiday and church and chapels, particularly in the North of England celebrated with church and chapel parades known as 'whit walks.'

Pentecost is certainly up there with Christmas and Easter in terms of its importance and significance in the Christian calendar so why doesn't it have the same prominence as the other two festivals? Certainly, it is unlikely to attract the same degree of commercialization as the other celebrations but I think, even for Christians, that there is something about the concept of the Holy Spirit which we find difficult to get our heads round. We are physical and relational people and while it is easy to relate to God the Father and God the Son, it is difficult to imagine God the Holy Spirit – it is too elusive, rather an abstract idea. In a Star Wars sort of way thought of as a 'force' being with us' rather than a person.

A week after Pentecost, we celebrate Trinity Sunday when we affirm the concept of three persons in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This can be a tricky subject if you are preaching that day although the option at Trinity was to celebrate the Church Anniversary instead! But the Bible is clear that the Holy Spirit is a person: he talks, he teaches, he guides, he leads (John 16:13-15). And, as God, he doesn't just want to 'power us up'; he wants to have a relationship with us. So, we should use a personal pronoun when referring to

the Spirit (i.e. he/she) not 'it'.

Jesus said "He who has seen me has seen the Father" and the Holy Spirit is the Father's life and power reaching through all the world. Therefore, Jesus too shows us what the Spirit is like. If we look at the life of Jesus on earth, we see that everywhere he went he made an impact. How did he teach with authority, heal the sick, drive out demons and raise the dead? Through the power of the Spirit and that Spirit is available for us too, to use for God's work in the world although it may challenge us with new ideas and different ways of thinking about what it means to be God's people in today's world.

When we speak of the church, we are not talking of an organization or a club. We are talking about people called to be together to share Jesus' love and show that love to the world. Do we really believe the Holy Spirit is still as powerful and active in the world today as it was nearly two thousand years ago when those first believers received it with wind and flames? 'What influences the power and scope of the Spirit in our world is up to us and our response to its calling and prompting.

So, as we celebrate Pentecost, we thank God for His gift to us of the Holy Spirit. Let us open ourselves up to his presence, his truth and his power in our lives and we offer up a prayer that we may become God's Spirit filled people in his Spirit filled Church.

Happy Pentecost and may the Spirit be with you!

Anne Rowe

- *Before Christ sent the church into the world, He sent the Spirit into the Church. The same order must be observed today – John R W Stott.*

Save the Date

You are
invited to
a fun



afternoon at

St Andrew's Methodist Church

A social afternoon
for all the Methodist
Church communities in
the Basingstoke area.
Games.....singing.....



puzzles.....

and afternoon tea.

Saturday 8th June 2-5pm

Come along and join in
the fun!



Free event (with opportunity to make a
donation if desired.)

**Church
Council
Meeting:
Monday
13 May at
2 pm**

The Bible in 50 words

God made.
Adam bit.
Noah arked.
Abraham split.
Joseph ruled.
Jacob fooled.
Bush talked.
Moses balked.
Pharaoh plagued.
People walked.
Sea divided.
Tablets guided.
Promise landed.
Saul freaked.
David peaked.
Prophets warned.
Jesus born.
God walked.
Love talked.
Anger crucified.
Hope died.
Love rose.
Spirit flamed.
Word spread.
God remained.

– Anon

Prayer Request Book

A '*Prayer Request*' Book is now available each Sunday and prayers will be included in the 'Intercessions'.

Please ensure that you have the permission of the person you would like to be prayed for.



Diane Bath



Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

**Sunday Worship at St Andrew's & Trinity
and our Basingstoke Churches
Plan for Worship for May 2024**



Enquiries – Joint Senior Stewards:

Diane Bath ☎: 01256 320429 or email dianeath51@gmail.com

Linda Hoe ☎: 01256 417219 or email lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk

Basingstoke & Reading Circuit – Basingstoke Churches – May 2024

Dates	5 May	12 May	19 May Pentecost	26 May Trinity Sunday
Trinity / St Andrew's 10.30 am	Rev Claire Simpson, S	LA, Parade	Mrs S Whithorn	Rev Barbara McIntivey
Church of Living Stream 10.30 am	Rev Dr J Mather	T Bell	Rev Jenny Dowding	Rev Claire Simpson
Oakley 10.30 am	T Bell	S Appiah	John Smith	T Rowell
Oakridge 10.30 am	LA	S Turner	Rev Claire Simpson, C	S Appiah, United Service
Old Basing 10.30 am	S Appiah	N Graham	Rev David Jenkins, S	United Service at Oakridge

'New Singing Group'



The *First Meeting* of the New Singing Group is on

Monday 29 April at 2 pm

'Everyone' is very welcome and we would love you to join us for a 'Sing Together'.

Before Lockdown, St Andrew's had a 'Singing Group', so it is hoped that we can restart the group with even more people now our churches have merged.

We look forward to seeing you on the 29th April.

For more information, please talk to Peggy.

**Enjoy 'Fellowship with Friends' after Sunday Morning
Worship along with an 'enjoyable Coffee, Tea, Biscuit
and sometimes even cake' !**



Diary Page, Trinity / St Andrew's – Check out the Church Noticeboards !

Dates	Timings	<u>EVENTS</u> – <u>ALL</u> at St Andrew's unless otherwise stated
<i>Weekly & Monthly Events</i>		
Tue, Wed, Thur weekly term-time	10 am – 1.30 pm	Mug & Biscuit Open for drinks, biscuits, cakes, tea-cakes, light lunches, <i>page 20</i>
Tues, weekly	10 am – 11.30 am	Tuesday Coffee Club , <i>page 13</i>
Wed, weekly term-time	1 pm – 3 pm	Knit One, Drop One
2nd / 4th Fridays monthly	12.30 pm	South Ham Churches Lunch Club, <i>at St Joseph's Church page 13</i>
2nd & 4th Thurs, twice monthly	2.30 pm – 4 pm	The Fountain Prayer Group twice monthly unless otherwise advised, <i>page 13</i>
<i>Youth Organisations – Weekly Term-time</i>		
Mon, weekly term-time	7 pm – 8.30 pm	1st South Ham Guides , (10 – 14 yr olds), Leader: Sarah, New Members Sign Up via Girl Guides' website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus
Wed, weekly term-time	4.15 – 6 pm	3rd South Ham Rainbows , (4 – 7 yr olds), Leader: Lena Ponting
Wed, weekly term-time	6 pm – 7.45 pm	3rd South Ham Brownies , (7 – 10 yr olds), Leader: Lena Ponting
Thurs weekly term-time	10 am – 11 am	Playtime U5 Group , Contact: Theresa Strachan
Frid, weekly term-time	6 pm – 10.30 pm	3rd Boys Brigade , Captain: Theresa Strachan, <i>page 16</i>
<i>Other Events (including events that are once a month)</i>		
APRIL		
Mon 29 Apr	2 pm	NEW Singing Group , <i>page 4</i>
MAY		
Tues 7 May	7.30 pm	Northern Housegroup , <i>at Sonia's home, page 12</i>
Thur 9 May	2.30 pm	The Fountain Prayer Group , <i>page 13</i>
Sat 11 May	All Day	Advanced Safeguarding Training Course , <i>at Oakridge</i>
Sund 12 May	2.30 pm	JAM , <i>page 12</i>
12 – 18 May		Christian Aid Week
Mon 13 May	2 pm	Church Council Meeting – Open Meeting
Tues 14 May	7 pm (Earlier)	Trinity Circle AGM with Supper , <i>page 12</i>
Sat 18 May	10 am – 12 noon	Plant Sale / Coffee Morning , <i>Silchester Church, p16</i>
Sund 19 May	7 pm	OneChurch Basingstoke Ecumenical Service
Thur 23 May	2.30 pm	The Fountain Prayer Group , <i>page 13</i>
JUNE		
Sund 2 June	2.30 pm	JAM , <i>page 12</i>
Sat 8 June	2 pm – 5 pm	Social Afternoon , for <u>ALL</u> BStoke Methodists, <i>page 3</i>
Wed 12 June	10 am – 3 pm	Retreat , <i>Silchester Church, RG7 2NY, page 19</i>
Thur 13 June	2.30 pm	The Fountain Prayer Group , <i>page 13</i>

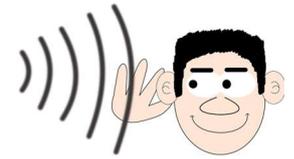
- I hate it when I see an old person, and then realise we went to school together.

Sound and Vision in our building!



I wanted to say a thank you to everybody who filled in the questionnaire on sound and vision things in the main hall. Also a thank you to everybody who came to our meeting on 6th April, when we explored the issues in a different way. Some of you who could not come to this meeting have spoken to me separately.

There seems to be a common view that:



1. It is often difficult to hear sufficiently clearly, especially if at the sides or back of the hall or near the organ.
2. People who use the loop probably have better sound than those who do not.
3. The screen is difficult to see if for those who are short, or sitting, when there are people, especially tall people, standing in front.
4. There is a light cast from the East window which makes things difficult to see on the screen.
5. For those leading worship the screens are placed badly.

There were varied views about the differences between fixed microphones and clip on ones, and there were varied views about the colours used in the projected words.

There were also views expressed about whether people needed training to use microphones effectively, and also about the use of pictures and videos with the words of hymns etc. Whilst important, these are not anything to do with the equipment, but how it is used, and so the solution is about how we use the technology.

To solve the sound equipment issues is likely to involve some detailed technical discussions and I have asked our team of specialists to suggest what might be needed. These solutions however are expected to be generally invisible.

To solve the visual issues on the other hand is likely to be simpler, and several of you have made different suggestions, which accord with those of the working group. However the solutions will be more visible and change the appearance of the hall in some way.

At the meeting on 6th April, we also discussed what else we would like to have to further benefit our worship and mission, beyond just fixing the problems we experience. There were few views expressed, and my sense was that people needed some time to answer this. As a result, we felt that we should not tackle everything, until the church was clearer about what was needed in addition to "fixing" the system.

We did feel though that it would be worth putting some effort into solving some of the sound problems, using our in-house expertise, supported by external contractors. This would offer some improvement whilst we all, as a church, decide what technology is required for worship and mission.

This last element is very important. Understanding our wider mission is key to the process of establishing our Audio-Visual needs:

Pixabay

cont'd.....

Sound and Vision in our building (cont'd)

Therefore I plan to bring to Church Council on 13th May,

1. A proposal to provide a “quick fix” to address some of the sound issues.
2. A proposal to have an open discussion about what to do about visual issues.
3. A proposal to have an open discussion about our wider worship and missionary work.

Church Council is open to everybody – you do not have to be a member of Church Council to attend, speak or ask questions. People who are not members cannot vote on formal proposals, but speaking personally, I think it helps members to hear comments and thoughts from as wide a group as possible. So I would invite you to come, whether or not you are a member of Church Council.

Many thanks

David Webb

Forgiveness

Lord, we are told to confess our sins to you.
 Then there is silence to do so.
 Is it wrong that I then sit and think
 Well what have I done wrong?
 I'm not a bad person,
 I haven't been mean to others,
 I haven't caused physical harm.
 I haven't done anything terrible.

Then I ponder...

Lord, it is more about the things I haven't done
 Words I could have said
 Words that may have helped or made people feel cared for.
 A touch or a smile I could have shared.
 A few minutes I could have spent chatting to someone.
 The thoughts that travel through my mind,
 Which I am glad stay hidden from all but you.

So I come to you now

To say sorry and ask forgiveness
 For the deeds I have failed to do.
 Make me more aware of the opportunities that you present,
 Help me to act as your servant to others on a daily basis.
 Going forward, teach me to act with love and compassion to those I meet
 In your loving name.

Amen

by Jennifer Pitt



The Floral Cross

The Floral Cross is a sign of God's love for all.

On Good Friday we remember that Jesus Christ died on a cross to show us that God's love reaches out to us, even in the most difficult places.

On Easter Day we remember that Jesus rose again and met with his friends to comfort them.

We believe that we can know the guiding presence of the Risen Christ as we journey through life here and now and in the future even after death.

You are welcome to join us for a chat and a cuppa at the Mug and Biscuit in the week or for worship on a Sunday morning.



Many thanks to everyone who made it possible to put the beautiful floral cross outside St Andrew's on Easter Day.

We put up an explanation of the floral cross the following day. This is what we said:



Picture of the Cross above taken by Angela Webb

Other photos taken inside the church / or in the entrance area at St Andrew's by Bob L & Peter Harris





3Generate in 2024: 4 - 6 October at the NEC, Birmingham:

It is 3 Generate Time again, 3Generate is the children's and youth Assembly of the Methodist Church, and we as a Circuit are going for the whole weekend, indoor camping at the NEC 😊.

3Generate is open to 8 to 18 year olds, Friday to Sunday (or Saturday only):

We also welcomed 4 to 7 year olds and their parents / carers or significant adults into their own 3Generate space. Saturday only and if you're aged 18 to 25, why not become part of our growing Young Adult volunteer community?

There is a cost, but the Circuit's aim is for individual churches to sponsor children so that families do not have to bear the full cost. So even if you do not have any young people, you can still support the young people of the Methodist Church through donating to the cost of the weekend. We would also welcome your prayers as we encourage our young people as they come to know, and grow with God.

If you want more information about 3Generate or if you would like me to come to your church, please let me know.

Yvonne Hunt (Lay Worker, Children & Families) – Mobile: 07462 040644;
Email: outreach@BRMC.uk

* * * * *

Linda H & others went to '3Generate' for the first time in 2023. Linda wrote about the wonderful weekend they had in the Nov 23, E-News, here are some extracts:

'A group of 20 plus children went from the Reading area and we had already met some of them beforehand so we knew them and they knew us. The accommodation was in tents within the building and very well organised. I even ended up with a proper bed (ask me if you want to know more).

A brochure was provided for all the activities that were available for the children to do. It included climbing, craft work, escape room, silent disco, computer generated themes, quite spaces and lots more. There was something for everyone.

I am not sure how many children were there but someone told me over one thousand. We took over three halls within the NEC. Even with all these children it was not noisy. There was a lovely buzz and the children were so well behaved.

The worship on the Sunday was fantastic and we learnt some new songs which we hope we can teach the boys from BB at camp next year (if we remember what they were called!)

*When we hear so much moaning about young people today it was refreshing to see all these young people playing and interacting together and learning about Jesus in so many ways. Each activity they took part in they collected a magnet and there were twelve to collect altogether which many managed to collect them all'. **Linda***

An Incredible Sight

In the December newsletter on page 24, the Statue of Jesus was mentioned and it reminded me of my Dad. He was in the Royal Navy in the 1920's & 1930's.

Their ship arrived in Brazil and the men were invited to visit the newly built statue. My Dad was so stunned by the size that for the rest of his life he carried a photo of it in his wallet and would show it and talk of its size and weight – *(written on the back)*.

My sister and I vowed we would visit one day, so in 2014 we flew to Rio and took all his photos. Our guide was amazed that the sailors went right up to the foot of it.

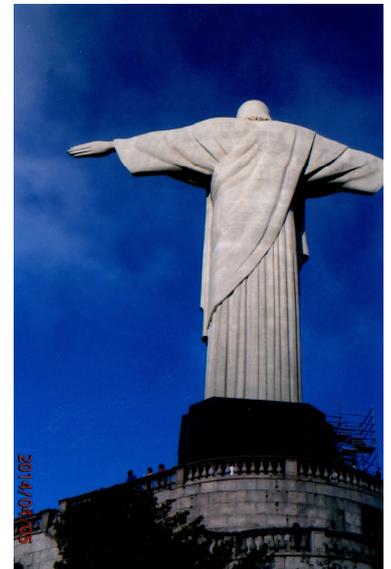
Now it is barricaded but it is still an amazing experience.

I once read somewhere that for ships approaching Rio on the horizon, it looks as though Jesus is walking towards you. I don't know if that is true, but it was an ***Incredible Sight***.

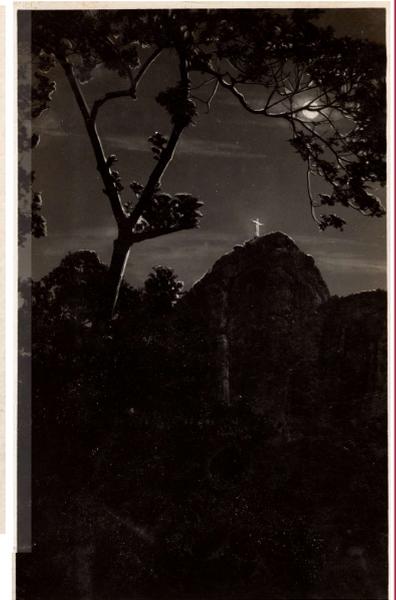
Christ the Redeemer.

Peggy

These are some of Peggy's lovely photos



Weight: 1700 tons
Head: 30 tons, height 12 ft
Hand: 8 Tons, height 11 ft
Hand to hand: 90 ft
Mountain: 2,300 ft



- Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things; after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things – *A Gordon*

2,000 Years of Christian Song

Where do you start? Well, this was the title of a retreat day at St. Columbia's House in Woking. This Christian Retreat House, belonged to the Guildford Diocese, C of E, is a place I often visit, and I had looked forward to this day, for several months.

The subject is massive, and only the tip of it was explored, but it was enough to whet the appetite, towards new discovery.

We started with Caedmon's Hymn (673-735). He was an unmusical cow herder, who miraculously empowered, sang in praise of God the Creator.

We went on to look at Gregorian Chants, (I am pleased I am not a monk!)

Then on through the medieval period, to the reformation, Luther, Calvin, and Knox, where things were rather restrained, to the Hymn explosion of Charles and John Wesley, Issac Watts, John Newton and William Cowper.

Followed by today's hymn writers, Elizabeth Cosnet, Fred Kaan, Timothy Dudley-Smith, Fred Pratt Green to Graham Kendrick and Martin Leckebusch, picking up along the way, 'Ubi Caritas' from Taizé, and then. Calypso Denominations also have their own doctrines of belief, and these are expressed in their Hymn singing.

The psalms praise God, in every situation of human life.

The psalmist sings in Psalm 27 *'The Lord is my light, and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?'*

It was a full day in Woking! Not for the faint hearted, but a day of praise to God, and I enjoyed it immeasurably.

God bless you.

Margaret Garland



Christian Resources still available: Just a quick reminder that although Shoemakers Christian bookshop in The Arcade has now closed the Manager, **Steve Wood, is continuing to supply Christian Resources to Newbury, Thatcham and the surrounding area via 'Sonrise Christian Resources'.**

The personal approach is still important to us, and we are passionate about making good Christian resources available through local churches. Please encourage your church to contact us (or get in touch with us yourself) to explore how we can best facilitate this. Whether you represent a church looking for relevant resources or are an individual looking for Christian gifts or for books on a specific topic, you can **phone Steve on ☎: 07396 825097** for any advice and to talk through the options available.

Would you like a bookstall at an upcoming event? Call us or email us – we'd love to talk through your requirements and how we can help. sales@sonrisechristianresources.co.uk

PRAYING & LISTENING



On Sunday mornings –

Anyone wearing this badge will be available to listen and pray quietly with you at the back of the church after the service.

Northern Housegroup

**Our next Housegroup is on:
Tuesday 7 May at 7.30 pm at
Sonia's home**

**We are pleased to welcome
John Smith who is our
Speaker for the evening.**

Sonia, Edna and Hilary

WHEELIE BINS

Mel Robinson has put out our wheelie bins ready for the Councils' Tuesday emptying for some years on behalf of St Andrews. Mel is unable to continue this and I thank him for carrying out this Important task.

If you are able to take on this task in the future please see Bob.

The **black bin needs to be put out either on a Sunday after worship or on a Monday** ready for the Councils' collection on a Tuesday.

The **green recycle bin on alternative weeks**, you don't need to gain access to the church as the bin cupboard is outside.

Thanks in anticipation,

Bob

Pete's photo



Trinity Circle

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 14 May at 7 pm at St Andrew's, Earlier Start Time AGM with Supper – Soup, then AGM, then Pud, £5 a head – names & money to Jennifer Pitt please.**

Trinity Circle is open to everyone and we look forward to seeing you.

Sonia

(JAM) – 'Jesus And Me'

Meets: 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm, usually the 1st Sunday of the month at St Andrew's



The Next 'JAM' Dates are:

Sunday 12 May – when JAM will be Leading the Morning Service

And – 2 June & 7 July

* * * * *

JAM – Children & Families now meet at St Andrew's, usually the 1st Sunday of the month to hear stories of Jesus, Craft, Singing & Tea.

All are very welcome.

Do come along and join us.

'Recycle your Used Postage Stamps'

Via the box in the **Mug and Biscuit**, and help **'St Michael's Hospice'**.
Thank you.

Bob L



Stamp Image, Pete's photo

Litter

We have a gang of litter pickers who clean surrounding areas of the church, in pairs. Usually the rota would call upon 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. The Gang has depleted in numbers so have to be on duty more often.

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



Pixabay

'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

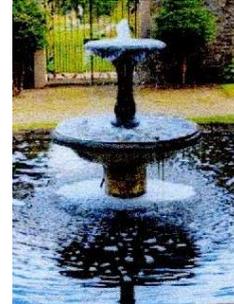


Pixabay

The Fountain Group Prayer Group

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

on: **Thursday 9 May**
Thursday 23 May
Thursday 13 June



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)

Newsletter – 'Events / Dates / Contributions'



Please let me know if you have **Events, 'Dates for Diaries' or any other contribution** you would like included or promoted in **'OUR' Newsletter**. **Thank you all in advance, Hazel, Ed.** (Items can be: bible passages, prayers, poems, stories, outings, holidays, events or anything else you would like included).

South Ham Churches Lunch Club

St Andrews, St Josephs and St Peters run a Lunch Club on the 2nd & 4th Fridays, 12.30 pm, at St Joseph's Church, St Michael's 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**.



Testing Our Core Beliefs

My wife Llyn, and I have been having discussions in recent weeks with members of the Jehovah Witness (JW) Christian Community who periodically call at our home. We always welcome them in as we enjoy hearing the views of other Christian groups to see how their views differ from our Methodist teaching, and also importantly to see if we share common ground with them. On several occasions I have been invited and attended meetings at the JW Kingdom Hall in Winklebury to see first-hand how they conduct their worship.

There are many serious differences between JWs and Methodists in our Christian beliefs:-

- JWs do not believe in the Trinity, only in the one God Jehovah.
- The Holy Spirit is not a person but God's active force.
- Jesus is not God, but an archangel created by God.
- Only JW leaders take Communion, the congregation as a whole are only spectators.
- Only 144,000 JWs (JW leaders) will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and reign with Jesus, Revelation 7. The rest of the JWs, the great multitude, will cease to exist, and only be retained in Jehovah's memory. When God creates His Kingdom on Earth they will be recreated, live their lives on a Paradise Earth, and never see Jesus.
- JWs do not believe that sinners are punished in Hell, only that they cease to exist on their mortal death.

There are many more differences that can be seen in their literature.

Our discussions are always respectful of each other's views and invariably end in a stalemate, as neither party can agree with the belief of the other. The differences in fact are mainly due to our differing interpretations of the original Hebrew and Greek translations of the Gospels, a subject for theologian academic debate. What we did find however was that there are some core Christian beliefs that we all share which are fundamental to our Salvation, and which in fact are the foundation of Christian Belief across the whole worldwide Christian Church. These being:-

- The blood sacrifice of Jesus has paid the price for the sins of all mankind.
- We must sincerely repent of our sins.
- We must be obedient to God's two Greatest Commandments, "Love the Lord our God" and "Love your neighbour as yourself", Matthew 12:28-31.
- We must work in the Vineyard as in Matthew 20:1-16.
- At the day of judgement we will be judged in accordance with Matthew 25:31-46, "The Sheep and the Goats."

Ultimately our Lord will judge us on our belief in Him and our obedience to His Word in our lifetime. For my part my Methodist Church community provides me with all the love and support that I need to follow this path, and to work for Him in the Vineyards that He has chosen for me.

It is not for us to be judgemental on the beliefs of others but only to share with them our understanding of the Christian Faith, and how it has transformed our lives.

Martin Frost, St Andrews Church, 25th March 2024

With Trinity Sunday (26th May) in mind

- Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence – *John Wesley*

REFLECTIONS



During the past three weeks (which included Easter) I was confined to my flat due to a severe chest infection. Most importantly, I wish to thank my Church family for the telephone calls, get well cards and especially the healing prayers said on my behalf. After several changes of medication, and God's blessing, I am pleased to say that my life is now getting back to normal.

As someone who goes out every day, I found being stuck indoors quite difficult. I therefore decided to use this enforced rest, as a time of "retreat", spending time on Bible study, prayer and contemplating the state of our world. I also read a couple of journals I wrote during the first year of my retirement (24 years ago); the first journal was a daily record of my life as a retiree, the other journal was my experience as a first-time allotment holder. In many ways my ill health became a blessing, as it gave me a much-needed opportunity to do nothing but rest and reflect on past, present and future hopes. All in all a very cathartic experience.

Jesus was born to facilitate reconciliation between sinful humans and a Holy God, through his sacrificial death, burial, resurrection and ascension back to God. During my three weeks convalescing, the only real changes I could see in our World from the time of Jesus and now, is that we have advanced in all manner of things like technology, and sciences, but fundamentally humanity has not changed. Two bible passages come to mind that are very relevant in today's world:

Prior to his death Moses spoke at length to a diverse nation, facing uncertain times....
Deuteronomy 30. V15-20.

"Today, I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Choose life, that you may live loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him".

Hosea's plea to a nation in turmoil.... Hosea 6. V1-3.

"Come, let us return to the Lord for he has torn us that he may heal us; He has struck us down and he will bind us up.

Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord, his going forth is as sure as the dawn; He will come to us as showers, as spring rains that water the earth".

I love the diversity of different cultures and we benefit so much more by learning their histories and shared experiences, all beginning with hospitality which is 'basic' to most other religions in the world.

I wonder have we Christians been too quiet or too polite, over recent years ? Perhaps it is now time for all Christians worldwide, to unite and bring some light, and common sense to a very strange world that is now emerging.

God Bless you all.

Barbara J

- Politicians are not people who seek power in order to implement policies they think necessary. They are people who seek policies in order to attain power – *Evelyn Waugh*

Plant Sale & Coffee Morning



**Saturday 18 May
10 am - 12 noon at**



**Silchester
Methodist
Church Hall**

Oakley Methodist Church



Coffee Mornings: May

**10.30 am – 12 noon
Tuesdays 14 & 28 May**

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

Paperbacks available 30p each

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

Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:

Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

☎: 01256 323103 / email: revclaire72@btinternet.com

* * * * *

Church Contacts: Joint Senior Stewards:

Diane Bath: ☎ 01256 320429 /
email: dianebath51@gmail.com

Linda Hoe: ☎: 01256 417219 /
email: lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk

* * * * *

St Andrew's Bookings: Contact: Bob Lock
email: robertlock1@virgnmedia.com

* * * * *

Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website:
www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

* * * * *

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16B Portacre Rise, B/Stoke, RG21 8YQ

* * * * *

Circuit Administrator is: Mrs Marion Young and can be contacted on:

☎ **07503 652961** (working hours only),
email:

marion@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

'Crafting Bits' – message from Yvonne Hunt: If anyone wants some

Crafting Bits (we have paints, coloured sand, felt, google eyes, lollipop sticks and much, much more, I also have an Easter box with lots of plastic eggs if anyone is doing a hunt), please contact Yvonne at: Outreach@BRMC.uk



Pixabay

3rd 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**

Like tongues of fire

*You came like licking tongues
of fire, alighting lightly,
mimicking a devastating
forest inferno that clears*

*the undergrowth, sweeps through
with great power and might,
makes way for new plants to grow.*

*But you swept into a room,
into tongues, minds and hearts,
filling them with power
as you cleared out the cobwebs*

*of fear and uncertainty,
made way for the new, the brave,
the strong, the hope-filled and free.*

*Oh Holy Spirit, how we need
you now to return in power,
fire up the fading embers
of our hearts, refuel us*

*inside with holy hope and joy,
increase our love for man and God
provide your wisdom and insight.*

(A poem for Pentecost, sent in by Bob L)

**Poem written by Joy Lenton and printed
with Joy's permission.**

Can be found at:

<https://godspacelight.com/2022/06/04/pentecost-a-fresh-perspective-poem-and-meditation-exercise/>

The Methodist Website

www.methodist.org.uk

The Methodist Website is well worth a look. There is so much to read on it – what is going on in Methodism both here and in the rest of the world.

When you go in you can choose from the menu at the top and each of the menu items then leads you into other categories that you can select to go into as you scan down.

For example under the top heading of **'Action' you can go into:** *'Poverty'; 'Peace'; 'Discrimination'; 'Refugees'; 'Climate'; 'Our Heritage of Social Action'.*

Under the top heading of **'Faith' you can go into:** *'The Prayer Hub'; 'The Methodist Way of Life'; 'Prayer for the day'; 'The Methodist Modern Art Collection'; 'Life and Faith'; 'The Bible'; 'Prayers for World Situations'; 'Methodist Prayer Handbook'.*

If you haven't had a look recently, why not have a browse.

Hazel (Ed)

From a recent **'All We Can'** publication that I received, is information about the **'Up and Coming Events Season 2024'**, places where you will find the **'All We Can' team**.

These are:

- Cliff Festival, 24 – 27 May, Cliff College;
- Methodist Conference, 27 June – 3 July, Leeds;
- Lionheart Festival, 27 – 28 July, Cowes, Isle of Wight;
- Creation Fest, 1 – 4 August, Royal Cornwall Events Centre, Wadebridge;
- 3Generate, 4 – 6 October, Birmingham;
- World Methodist Conference, 13 – 18 August, Gothenburg, Sweden;
- Scottish Methodist Gathering, 20 – 22 September, Stirling.

'All We Can'



Methodist
relief and
development

“Put Peace into each Others’ Hand and Like a Treasure Hold It”

Last month I attended the service for Word Day of Peace and Bookmarks with those words were handed out.

It made me stop and think what a treasure peace is, especially in our world today. There are so many conflicts, so much hatred and destruction in Ukraine, Gaza, Ethiopia and so many other African countries.

We feel so helpless to do anything about this. We can pray and give to the emergency appeals but little practical help.

Perhaps we can do something though. We can ***‘put peace into each others’ hands’*** in our church family, in the community.

Take the treasure, hold it and give thanks for our national peace and freedoms.

So may we never let difference of opinion and argument spoil that treasure.

We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, our Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen

Heather Shepherd

- Great faith is not the faith that walks always in the light and knows no darkness, but the faith that perseveres, in spite of God’s seeming silence, and that faith will most certainly and surely get its reward – *Fr Andrew SDC*

Courses

Before I came to Basingstoke, I helped to start a Boys Brigade Company at my church and it was going well but we decided we needed another night for PE and Games. I said I was interested but was not confident enough to run it. Just at that time (*amazing how things fall into place*) it became known there was to be a course:

“How to run a PE and Games Evening without any Equipment”.

I put my name down – it was for 2 hours on an evening so I went along. The Instructor came in with nothing to use and took us for the two hours and at the end I was confident that I could do what was necessary. I started on a Tuesday night and ran it for some 7 years until I moved to Basingstoke.

It also did me a bit of good – in the second session, I opened up and about 30 boys came in and I went straight to our cupboard to get what few items we had. When I came into the hall, it was to find the church caretaker was making the boys be quiet and to sit down. I would have been within my rights to have “blown my top” but I didn’t.

I walked to the end of the hall, put on my coat and was just going out when I had a tap on my shoulder. It was the caretaker and he said “where are you going”? I replied “I was going home”. He replied – “but what about all these boys”? I replied – “but I thought you were in charge”.

He could not leave quick enough, he practically ran.

The boys of course noticed this and I went up in their estimation no end. To work with boys you have to gain their respect, it is not given – you have to earn it. This happening did me a power of good in that direction.

I went on many courses but I think this was the most informative.

Nobby



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 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 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."*



David Holgate's statue of Julian, outside Norwich Cathedral, completed in 2000.

Saturday 10th August The Vine & the Branches



Let's explore together the picture language of Jesus.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5 (NIV)

Future 2024 Retreats:

- **Wednesday 2 October**
- **Saturday 23 November**

Wednesday 2 Oct Memories

A chance to explore how we remember and are remembered.

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

Ephesians 1: 16 (NIV)

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 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 14 May, between 11.30 am – 1 pm

Light lunch provided. Please bring along crafts of your choice

Gillian Smethurst



At 20.04.24 the Foodbank – **Most Needed:**

- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Savoury Snacks / Crisps
- Long Life Fruit Juice

At 20.04.24 the Foodbank – **Most Needed:**

- Squash
- Coffee
- Semi-Skimmed milk
- Loo Rolls

At 20.04.24 the Foodbank – **Running Low:**

- Cooking sauces
- Hair Conditioner
- Tinned Meat

At 20.04.24 the Foodbank – **Running Low:**

- Hot & Cold Desserts (eg jelly. Sponge pudding)
- Custard & Evaporated Milk
- Tinned Veg
- Tinned Ravioli
- Washing-up liquid
- Sweet Spreads (eg jam, marmalade)
- Toothpaste
- Nappies size 5 +

We have Plenty:

- Biscuits
- Pasta & Rice
- Tinned Soup
- Tinned Baked Beans
- Pulses
- Hot & Cold Cereal
- Non-Dairy Milk
- Sanitary Pads
- Baby Food, Formula & Nappies size 4 & below
- Hand Soap
- Dog Food



More info on web: www.https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

- The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing – Anon

BASINGSTOKE CHORAL SOCIETY
Choral Suite from The Armed Man
by Karl Jenkins
Traditional Songs and Spirituals

Saturday July 6th 2024

All Saints Church Odiham

Conducted by David Gibson

Wine and Strawberries served
 from 6pm. to 6.45pm

Tickets: £20 including refreshments

See website for details: basingstoke-choral.org.uk



BCS is a registered CIO; no: 1202484

The Choir will return to Odiham for their summer concert with choruses from the popular *Armed Man* by Karl Jenkins, *A Mass for Peace* written to commemorate all victims of war reflecting in this the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Combined with a selection of spirituals compiled and arranged by Bob Chilcott and traditional English folk songs set by John Rutter, the programme brings something for everyone during the summer months.

Details of how to purchase tickets can be found by visiting: www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk.

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

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

Recycling – Plastic Milk Bottle Tops – If you have plastic milk bottle tops (*only milk ones*) & would like to recycle them, Pamela has a Hants & Isle of Wight Air



**With Ascension Day
 (9 May) and Pentecost
 (19 May) in mind**

The U in JesUs

Before U were thought of or time had begun, God even stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true You can't spell out JesUs and not include U

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name, For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died. It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmptet blew, and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Now go into the world and tell them it's true, That the love I have shown is not just for U."

So many great people are spelled with a U, Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do, He'd like them to know, But it all starts with U.

- Only one petition in the Lord's Prayer has any condition attached to it; it is the petition for orgiveness – *Archbishop William Temple*

Canon Paul Hardingham – What’s the Big Idea? – Introduction to Books of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy & Joshua

The setting for these books is Israel’s entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses’ addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God’s covenant and his call for His people’s obedience, loyalty and love. The ‘*shema*’ (Heb: ‘hear’), expresses this response to God: ‘*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*’ (Deut. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God’s people in response to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the NT eg. Jesus’ temptations (Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God’s love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says Joshua: ‘*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*’ (Joshua 1:9).

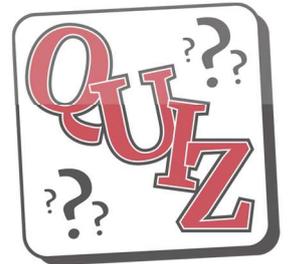
Joshua (*‘The Lord saves’*) is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God’s people into their eternal ‘rest’ (Heb 4:1–11).

Quiz on the book of Joshua:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Whom did Joshua succeed as leader of Israel
Jacob
Aaron
Moses | 5. How many stones did the Israelites take from the dry riverbed of the Jordan?
7
12
40 |
| 2. What was the name of Joshua's father?
Carmi
Nun
Eleazar | 6. Once the Israelites had entered the Promised Land, what happened in the days after they had celebrated the Passover?
God stopped providing manna
Joshua apportioned land to each tribe
The Amorites attacked them |
| 3. To what city did Joshua send two men to spy upon?
Jericho
Ai
Gilgal | 7. What did the captain of the Lord's host command Joshua to do?
Gather his army against Jericho
Build an altar to the Lord
Take off his sandals |
| 4. What was the name of the woman who hid the spies Joshua sent?
Rachel
Rahab
Rebekah | 8. How many priests were chosen to carry the rams' horns as they marched round Jericho?
3
7
70 |

cont'd on the opposite

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>9. What was the name of the man who violated God's command not to plunder anything from Jericho?
Phinehas
Zabdi
Achan</p> <p>10. The Gibeonites tricked Joshua into making a covenant of peace, but as what did he make them serve the Israelites?
Woodcutters and water-carriers
Brick makers and messengers
Stone-carriers and armour-bearers</p> <p>11. What natural phenomenon helped Joshua defeat the Amorites?
Sandstorm
Earthquake
Hailstones</p> <p>12. What was the only tribe not to receive an inheritance?
Levi
Reuben
Manasseh</p> | <p>13. How old was Caleb (one of the original 12 spies) when he was given Hebron as his inheritance?
40
70
85</p> <p>14. What tribe was given a portion of Judah as their inheritance?
Ephraim
Simeon
Benjamin</p> <p>15. For what sin were the cities of refuge created?
Accidental murder
Theft
Adultery</p> |
|---|--|



Pixabay

Answers on page 25

In Appreciation of our Nurses

The work of nurses is celebrated around the world on **12th May**. That day was chosen to be International Nurses Day because it is the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. Here are some current stats on nurses in the UK: There are currently 731,058 nurses on the permanent NMC register. With midwives and nursing associates added, this figure rises to be 788,638. There are more female nurses than male nurses. 89% of registered nurses identify as female, and 11% identify as male. We need more nurses! Currently there are about 46,800 vacancies. Could this be a job for you?



Signs and Promises (Mark 13:5-13, Rev 21:4,22:20)

'The one who endures to the end will be saved.'

Earthquakes, Explosions, Tsunamis and Terror,
Nation rising against Nation, Dictators destroying their own,
Floods, Famine, Families in sewer-slums,
Persecution, Opposition, And the list goes on...
Signs all around of a broken world, A warning world.

Send Your Spirit, Lord, Bring Your healing, Your compassion,
Bring Your good news To those who must endure.

Open eyes to see beyond disasters – To the One who saves And will wipe away all tears.
Come Lord Jesus

by Daphne Kitching, PP

Duke of Edinburgh is Appointed as Lord High Commissioner (PP)

Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh, has been appointed as the Lord High Commissioner to the 2024 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, a decade after he last took on the role of royal representative at the annual gathering.

The Lord High Commissioner is the Sovereign's personal representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and is appointed by His Majesty the King to attend proceedings on his behalf. The Duke of Edinburgh is also expected to participate in other events and functions while visiting the capital.

Prince Edward was previously Lord High Commissioner in 2014, when he held the title of Earl of Wessex, and represented his mother, the late Queen.

* * * * *

Canon Paul Hardingham Considers the Ascension,

which this year we commemorate on Thursday 9 May (taken from PP)

The Truth of the Ascension

'While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.'
(Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: 'Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

The Ascension gives us a job to do: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:18,19). God's way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

'Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.'
(Teresa of Avila).

With the coming General Election in mind...

- There are two sorts of problems in my life. The political ones are insoluble, and the economic ones are incomprehensible – *Sir Alec Douglas-Home, former Prime Minister*

The Story behind the Hymn – ‘Praise my Soul the King of Heaven’

*Praise my soul the King of heaven,
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.*

*Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same as ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.*

by Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

*Father like, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.*

*Angels in the height, adore Him,
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space;
Praise Him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!*

This stately poetic paraphrase of Psalm 103 has been included in probably more solemn ceremonies than any other hymn in the English language. It was even chosen by Queen Elizabeth for her wedding to the Duke of Edinburgh in 1947. Henry Lyte had been a brilliant theological student at university in Dublin, with a gift for versifying. After graduation he moved to a tiny and remote parish in County Wexford to serve his curacy. It was here, when he was about 25, that Henry had a religious experience which would transform his life. A close friend of his, another clergyman, had fallen ill, and was clearly dying. Henry went to visit him. The friend was not as distressed as Henry had imagined he would be. Instead, the friend confessed that he had been re-reading the New Testament, with an eye on eternity, and had made a great discovery. There was no need to rely on religious duties and formalities and good deeds to gain peace with God. Instead, we can trust completely in the mercy of Christ and His saving power.

Answers to Quiz, pages 22 & 23:

1. Moses (1:2)
2. Nun (1:2)
3. Jericho (2:1)
4. Rehab (2:4)
5. 12 (4:9)
6. God stopped providing
7. Manna (5:12)
8. Take off his sandals (5:15)
9. Achen (7:18)
10. Woodcutters and water-carriers (9:27)
11. Hailstones (10:11)
12. Levi (13:33)
13. 85 (14:10)
14. Simeon (19:9)
15. Accidental murder (20:3)



Henry was sophisticated and had been very formal in his ministry. But this encounter with his friend's faith at death's very door, made him reconsider his faith. He wrote later that his dear friend 'who died happy in the thought that there was One who would atone for his delinquencies' made him 'study my Bible and preach in another manner than I had previously done'. And soon after this hymn appeared, in 1834.

Lyte rejoices in the majesty and wonder of the living God, who in turn loves us. He captures the measure of the Psalm in enduring lyrics, which combine time, eternity, God and man all swept up into one embrace. Its last verse summons all the created order to join in a great act of joyous praise – surely a preview of eternity!

BEER AND BASINGSTOKE

About midway between London and Salisbury there is a benighted little town which appears to be inhabited by a race of barbarians..... Can nothing be done for Barbarous Basingstoke? Cannot the Church Missionary Society open a special fund to send a missionary to bring this dark spot within the pale of Christian civilisation?

***The London evening Echo, 15 March 1882
(sent in by Linda H)***

For the Young & Young at heart

PUZ?LES

Crossword

Bible Bite

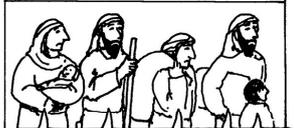
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapters 15: 22 to 19: 2

God had rescued the Hebrews from Egypt, and was leading them to their new land. But after 3 days...



but they couldn't stay...



God gave them quails, and manna* to eat as bread.



At Rephidim, God gave them more water to drink.



They were attacked there by the Amalekites, but



Moses' father-in-law brought his family to him...



Grumble, moan! After two months of travelling they arrived at Sinai mountain.



1	2		3	4	5	6	
7			8				
	9		10	11	12	13	14
15							
16							
17	18		19	20	21		
			22				23
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26				27			

Sudoku

	2			1	4		6
9				3	8		
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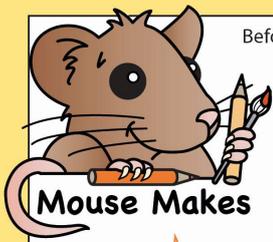
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H	E	M	S	S	P	S	K	I	D	R	A
E	A	S	D	L	E	I	F	N	R	O	C
Y	E	P	A	S	K	I	N	G	S	R	P
K	C	R	O	G	A	T	I	O	N	R	R
G	R	I	D	S	U	S	S	S	R	S	A
N	O	N	O	S	Q	E	E	P	S	N	Y
I	P	G	S	S	H	V	T	E	A	A	E
S	S	O	R	C	T	R	D	T	D	M	R
S	P	S	E	I	R	A	D	N	U	O	B
E	A	I	A	E	A	H	U	S	A	R	E
L	P	R	O	C	E	S	S	E	D	L	A
B	O	U	N	D	S	M	R	O	T	S	T

Wordsearch Rogation Sunday, May 24

The first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday. Rogation means an asking of God – for blessing on the seed and land. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to harvest.

- | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| Sunday | Asking | Processed |
| Prayer | Maps | May |
| Blessing | Cornfields | Cross |
| Rogation | Seed | Spring |
| Boundaries | Beat | Land |
| Earthquake | Crops | Bonds |
| Romans | Storm | Harvest |



Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...
 ...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."

READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2
 Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.
 How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
 DAY OF
 PENTECOST



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? Acts 1:12 | 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? Acts 2:2 |
| 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? Acts 1:14 | 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? Acts 2:3 |
| 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? Acts 1:26 | 4 What were the disciples filled with? Acts 2:4 |
| 5d Which special day was it? Acts 2:1 | 9 What did they start speaking in? Acts 2:4 |
| | 3 Who spoke to the crowd? Acts 2:14 |
| | 7 Who had prophesied this? Acts 2:16 |

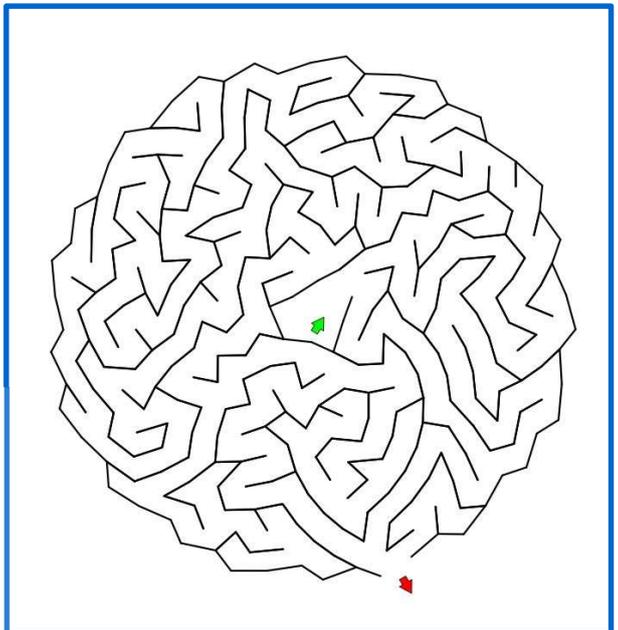
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Crossword Clues – Down:

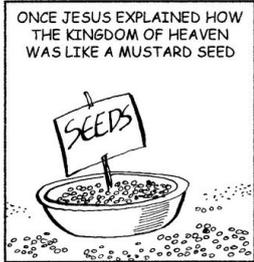
- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

Crossword Clues – Across

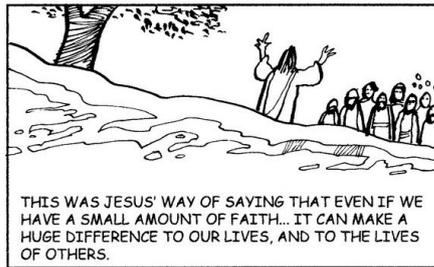
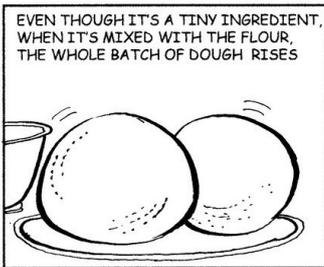
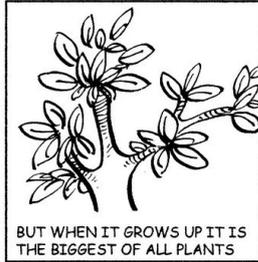
- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)



The tale of the Mustard Seed & the tale of the Yeast



IT IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST OF SEEDS...



Puzzle Pages Solutions

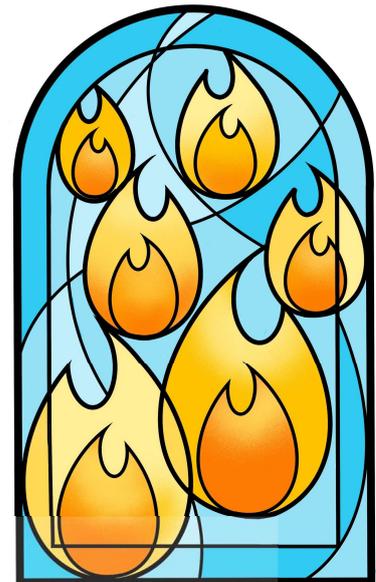
Across: 1, Debtor. 4, Shaken. 7, Ache. 8, Leavened. 9, Overcome. 13, Etc. 16, Troublemaking. 17, Par. 19, Ignatius. 24, Treasure. 25, Mene. 26, Astray. 27, Dinner.

Down: 1, Deaf. 2, Behaviour. 3, Relic. 4, Swarm. 5, Aged. 6, Elect. 10, Rabbi. 11, Ocean. 12, Exalt. 13, Epicurean. 14, Cage. 15, Step. 18, Acres. 20, Gaudy. 21, An end. 22, Fair. 23, Fear.

Sudoku Solution

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

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



Bread Whinge Land Manna Staff Oasis
 Water Egypt Grumble Delicious Mountain Quails
 Moses Food Elim Sinai Aaron Months
 Gode Amalekites Moan Helped Rephidim Disputes

