



Trinity E-News



Issue 03 / 24

Trinity's email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net

April 2024

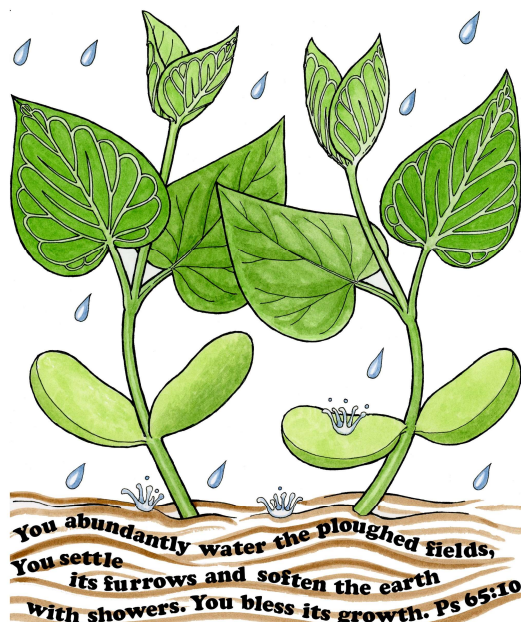


Our Minister is:
Revd Claire Simpson

☎: 01256 323103

email:
revclaire72@btinternet.com

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



- Peace is to the soul what health is to the body: a sign of balance and order – *Guy Appere*
- Opportunity knocks but once, temptation leans on the doorbell – *Anon*

Trinity E-News:
Deadline: May 24 issue:
Wed 17 Apr 2024,

Earlier date this month

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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AND LOTS MORE.....

Lo, Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth,
death has lost its sting:

Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory
thou o'er death has won.

Hymns & Psalms 212

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

April 2024

Dear Friends,

Curtains, Windows and Seeing our Way

This is an amazing time of year.

As we come to the end of Lent with its emphasis on reflection, we emerge, after Easter Day, into a time of rejoicing and looking to the future, to a time of new growth and huge promise.

These are some of the things that have been on my mind:-

Curtains, windows

John and I live on a busy main road and the curtains at the front of the house do an important job of protecting our privacy and keeping us extra warm in the cold months. Ours are looking a bit faded and jaded in the light of longer, brighter days and the windows could do with a clean too. I feel a spot of spring cleaning coming on! After the cold and dark of what has seemed a long winter hibernation with our curtains drawn, and the windows closed, I also need to open my mental and spiritual windows and curtains wider in the coming months. Looking outside, the garden's beautiful camelias, daffodils, magnolias remind me that God is at work and his kingdom is growing even when we are unaware or not looking out for the signs of it. I don't need to look very far to see evidence of his goodness and grace.

Sometimes however, looking beyond our own garden into the wider world can be a frightening thing. We see situations which seem terrible and beyond our control and we can't help wonder where God is in those times and places.

Every three months or so, I get a new copy of Amnesty International's magazine delivered. It is often full of uplifting news about people all over the world who have been freed from unjust prison sentences as a result of Amnesty's campaigns. Unfortunately every issue also highlights ongoing cases on which Amnesty members are asked to campaign.

This requires members to write letters or emails to various Heads of State or Embassies, asking them to look again at punitive actions taken against brave people campaigning peacefully for justice or just the right to express an opinion.

I am always amazed by the stories of courage shown by ordinary folk willing to hazard their own freedom in a non-violent fight for justice, peace and tolerance. Many of the cases involve social workers, teachers, journalists and often students. It is a challenge to all of us never to turn a blind eye to things that are wrong, whether they are local or far away. In the struggles of ordinary folk against huge organisations or powerful governments we see God's love and purposes being worked out, just as we see them in Jesus' life.

Seeing our way

It's not only on the domestic front that spring is a time for getting organised. I have had to sit through quite a few meetings recently (not all church ones). Each meeting had an agenda of items that needed consideration, in theory the most important first, or at least the one to which most time was given. An agenda is really a way of setting out aims, things that need to be done and shows where any organisation wants to put its effort.

I sat in one meeting wondering, not about the business in hand, but just what, as a Christian, I should have at the top of my personal life agenda. You won't be surprised that I am still thinking, but it has been helpful to realise that some of the things on my personal "to do" list are perhaps not as important as they might at first seem. As Christians we are all called to put God first in our lives and in many ways let him write or at least shuffle our personal agenda. There are distractions and demands all around us but in the stories of Jesus we see that even when everyone wanted his attention or his healing power, he built in specific times to be with his Father. Even he needed time

to open his mind and his heart to see clearly what God wanted and to draw on God's power to follow his Father's agenda and will. It has given me cause to look again at the ease with which I put aside my conversations with God when other things seem more pressing or easier.

In the coming weeks as we enjoy a wonderful Spring season, open our curtains, clean our windows and revisit our daily agenda, let's rethink our priorities and thank God for –

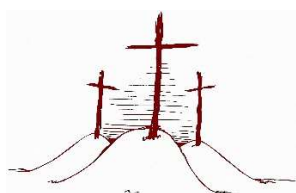
the gift of His son,

for the book of rules and examples we have to follow,

and the freedom we enjoy to follow his lead in our daily lives.

Hilary

Holy week and Easter at St Andrew's/Trinity



You are welcome to all of the following:

Thursday 28th March

2:30 pm - The Fountain – an hour of quiet prayer.

7 pm - Communion for Maundy Thursday

Friday 29th March

10.30 am Good Friday witness in the open air followed by drinks and hot cross buns in the Mug and Biscuit

Sunday 31st March – Easter Day

10.30 am Easter Worship including communion and flowering of the cross



Funeral

The Funeral of Reg Bass will take place at St Andrew's Church on Thursday 4 April at 12.30 pm. A zoom link for those unable to attend will follow.

The service will be followed by a Private Cremation for Family and Close Friends.

'Singing Group'

The **First Meeting** of the Singing Group is on **Monday 29 April at 2 pm.**

'Everyone' is very welcome and we would love you to come along and enjoy a 'sing' with us.

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.



Pixabay

- 300 years ago, on 7 April 1724 the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's 'St John Passion' was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.



Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

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

Plan for Worship for March to 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 – April 2024

Dates	7 April	14 April	21 April	28 April
Trinity / St Andrew's 10.30 am	John Smith	S Turner	Rev Barbara McIntivey	S Appiah
Church of Living Stream 10.30 am	Rev Claire Simpson	J Skeet	P Frank	Rev David Jenkins
Oakley 10.30 am	T Rowell	Rev David Jenkins	LA	Rev Claire Simpson, S
Oakridge 10.30 am	Mrs P Jose	Rev Claire Simpson, S	Mrs S Whithorn	C Marsh
Old Basing 10.30 am	LA	T Bell	Rev Claire Simpson, S	Mrs L Hoe

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



**Come & Enjoy 'Fellowship with Friends' after
Morning Worship on Sundays 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>		
2nd & 4th Frid, monthly	12.30 pm	South Ham Churches Lunch Club at St Joseph's Church , St Michael's Road, see p 7
2nd & 4th Thurs, monthly	2.30 pm – 4 pm	The Fountain Prayer Group meets twice monthly unless otherwise stated, see p 7
Tues, Wed & Thurs weekly (term-time)	10 am – 1.30 pm	Mug & Biscuit Opening Hours for drinks, biscuits, cakes, tea-cakes, light lunches, see p 19
Tues, weekly	10 am – 11.30 am	Tuesday Coffee Club , see p 7
<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.Girlguidex.org.uk/joinus see p 8
Wed, weekly (term-time)	4.15 – 6 pm	3rd South Ham Rainbows, (4 – 7 yr olds), Leader: Lena Ponting , see p 8
Wed, weekly (term-time)	6 pm – 7.45 pm	3rd South Ham Brownies, (7 – 10 yr olds), Leader: Lena Ponting , see p 8
Frid, weekly (term-time)	from 6.30 pm	3rd Boys Brigade, Captain: Theresa Strachan , see p 9
<i>Other Events (including events that are once a month)</i>		
Thur 28 Mar	7 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion , see p 3
Fri 29 Mar	10.30 am	Good Friday , Witness in the Open Air, followed by Hot Cross Buns & Drinks in the Mug & Biscuit, see p 3
Sund 31 Mar	10.30 am	Easter Worship including Communion & Flowering of the Cross, see p 3
Tues 2 Apr	7.30 pm	Northern Housegroup (at Sonia's home) , see p 6
Thur 4 Apr	12.30 pm	Funeral of Reg Bass, zoom link to follow, see p 3
Sat 6 Apr	2 pm	Sound & Vision Meeting , see p 10
Tues 9 Apr	7.30 pm	Trinity Circle with Margaret Hayes, see p 6
Sat 13 Apr	4.30 pm, from 4 pm – Refreshments	Wildfire Christian Musical at Christ Church, Chineham , see p 8 & 9
Sund 14 Apr	2.30 pm	JAM , see p 6
Sat 27 Apr	10 am – 3 pm	Retreat 'Pictures of Jesus', Silchester Church RG7 2NY
Mon 29 Apr	2 pm	Singing Group , first meeting of the newly reformed Singing Group – do come along and join us for an enjoyable sing, see p 3
12 – 18 May		Christian Aid Week in May
Sund 19 May	7.00 pm	OneChurch Basingstoke Ecumenical Service

- Nature forms us; sin deforms us; school informs us; Christ transforms us – *Anon*

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 2 April at 7.30 pm at Sonia's home

Our Evening will be led by one of our own members: Peter Ansell

Sonia, Edna and Hilary

WHEELIE BINS

For some years Mel Robinson has put out our wheelie bins ready for the Councils' Tuesday emptying.

Unfortunately Mel is unable to continue on behalf of St Andrews. 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 9 April at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's.**

Margaret Hayes will be showing us some of her lovely photography from her recent holiday.

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 14 April & Sunday 12 May

* * * * *

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.

'Thanks' and 'New Charity'

Thank You to all who give their **Used Postage Stamps** via the box in the Mug & Biscuit. Please continue to donate **Used Postage Stamps**, now for **'St Michael's Hospice'.**

THANKS, Bob



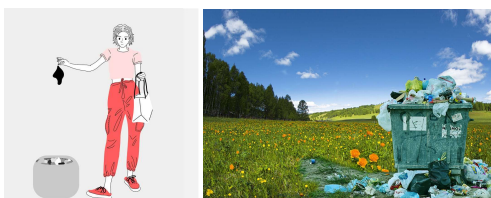
Stamp Image,
Pete's photo

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.



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 11 April
Thursday 25 April
Thursday 9 May



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)

Our God

- Our God is able – (Daniel 3:17)
- able to save (Hebrews 7:25)
- able to help (Hebrews 2:18)
- able to provide (2 Corinthians 9:8)
- able to do far more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20) (PP)

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**.



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, RG24 8LT on:

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

Parking is available on site; if the car park is full, we are invited to use the doctors' surgery next door, on the NW side of the church building (RG24 8ND).

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 has been providing some rehearsal and familiarisation sessions for this. **The last one is at 7.30 pm on 10 April at Christ Church Chineham.**

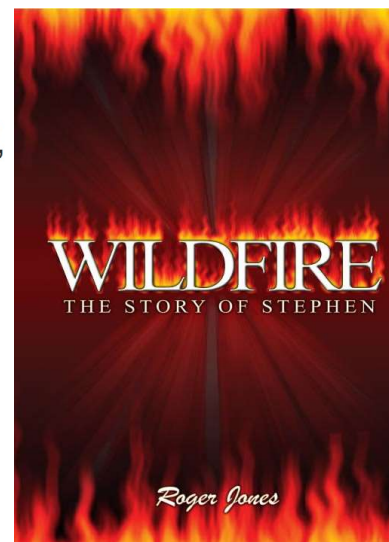
If you would like to take part but cannot come for the whole day, then this should be fine, but please would you let me know.

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 or ☎: 07848 843360.

Many thanks, David Webb

(Remaining pictures 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 | sales@cmm.org.uk | 01527 576440

Welcome

We are very pleased to welcome the **South Ham Rainbows, Brownies & Girl Guides** who now all meet at St Andrews, Wednesdays (Rainbows & Brownies) and Mondays (Girl Guides).



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

Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:

Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

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

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Church Contacts: Joint Senior Stewards:

Diane Bath: ☎ 01256 320429 /

email: dianeath51@gmail.com

Linda Hoe: ☎ 01256 417219 /

email: lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk

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St Andrew's Bookings: Contact: Bob Lock

email: robertlock1@virgnmedia.com

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Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website:

www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

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Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:

Trinity E-News Editor: Hazel Harris –

email: hazel@basingstokecircuit.net,

☎ 01256-461375, address:

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

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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

* * * * *

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**

Sound and Vision in our Main Hall

Many people say that they find it difficult to hear what is said in the Sunday services, or to see what is on the screen, or both. Church Council has therefore decided to investigate what could be done to improve this, and is looking for your views.

We are asking people if they can fill in a short survey. **The surveys will be at the back of church every Sunday.**

If there is more than one of you in a household, please fill in one survey form each.

The survey is completely confidential; we are not asking you to put your name on it.

This survey is for everybody; you do not have to be a church member or officer to take part.

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please either see me after a service, or email me at david@webbfamily.org.uk. Please also contact me, or one of the Church stewards, if you would rather not fill in this survey.

We encourage you to take your time in filling in this survey. You may be able to answer the questions better after more than one Sunday service. But if possible, we would like the survey returned by Easter.

There will be a meeting for everyone to come and share their views at 2pm on Saturday 6th April. You would be very welcome at this whether or not you have filled in the survey.

Thank you, **David Webb**



Spring Sale – 9 March 2024

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Spring Sale whether it was by donating items, sorting and pricing, helping on the day or just coming along to give support and spending their money.

We raised over £592 which was a tremendous effort by everyone. The items left over were taken away by the charity **'Forever Smiling'** and they generously gave a donation of £100 for which we give our thanks.

With this donation we raised over £600.

Thank you, Linda and all her helpers.

'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

When a torch grows dim or quits working,
you don't throw it away,
you change the batteries.

When a person messes up and finds
themselves in a dark place,

Do you cast them aside? Of course not,
You help them change their batteries!

Some need AA.. Attention and Affection;

Some need AAA... Attention, Affection
and Acceptance;

Some need C.. compassion;

Some need D.. Direction.

And if they still don't seem to shine..

Simply sit with them quietly and
Share your light.

Taken from Toowoomba Christian Community.

Sent in by Bob L

Cathedral Attendance Continues its Post- Pandemic Bounce Back

Attendance at Church of England Cathedrals has continued to bounce back following the pandemic, according to the latest statistics.

Figures show that adult usual Sunday attendance rose 60% between 2021 and 2022 for the 42 Church of England mainland Cathedrals to 12,300 adults. A total of 28,200 people including children attended services every week, according to Cathedral Statistics 2022.

Over the year there were 584,000 attendances at specially arranged services – not included in average weekly attendance – such as school services. The number of special services stood at 2,100. The total reported attendance at Christmas services stood at 104,000.

from PP

[Pixabay](#)



Oakley Methodist Church



Coffee Mornings: February

10.30 am – 12 noon

Tuesdays 9 & 23 April

£1 for a bottomless tea or coffee
& biscuits

Paperbacks available 30p each

*Proceeds to the Red Cross
this year.*

The Empty Tomb – a Story of Easter, By Brian Sibley, SPCK, £6.99

Here is an illustrated retelling of the Easter story in short chapters, **ideal for 6+ years**. It would be a good introduction to the stories of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the death and resurrection of Jesus, His Ascension, and Pentecost.

The book includes the procession of the singing crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem, and the moment Jesus shared the bread and the cup at the Passover meal. It also tells of how the disciples' sorrow turned to joy and wonder when they saw Jesus once again after His death, eating and drinking with them. The book also relates the excitement of Pentecost. The stories can be read alone, or read aloud. **from PP**

- The church should be a community of encouragement – *Fred Catherwood*

Old Adages, What Mum knew

'Be thankful for little things, because they might actually be big things one day.'

'Say' thank you for having me.' Learn gratitude.'

Recognize goodness, and appreciate kindness.'

How hard is it to be kind, to sing, to smile?'

'Notice things. See the accident BEFORE it happens.'

'Drink the coffee, or the tea. Smell the roses.'

'Thank God for life, treasure it.'

'Pray for those less fortunate.'

'Love, love, love, and then love some more.'

'Don't count the cost, Jesus died for you.'

'In everything be thankful especially at Easter.'

'Be happy, it's infectious.'

'Say 'God bless you' even those who do not believe in Him, like it.'

Oh, I haven't forgotten, 'God bless us, all of us.'

Margaret Garland

Facing Fear 365 – Daily Reflections for Hope, Peace and Courage, by Dan Blythe and Rocky Nti, SPCK, £13.99

Every day we face a choice: to give into fear, or meet it with faith?

From health concerns to comparison-rife social media, the world offers us plenty of reasons to live in fear. Yet God offers us countless reasons to live life to the full, facing cowardice and stepping forward with courage.

This book of 365 Daily Reflections can help you cultivate courage to fight fear with faith, as you begin each day, ***from PP***

For Easter

Loved with such love which knows no end.
Is given by Jesus my wonderful friend.
He gave Himself that this love I might know.
As on the Cross His Head did bow.
This Love is so great, I can hardly take it in.
While I was lost and dead in sin.
Such love is mine now and always.
And I give Him myself for the rest of my days

by Pat Murphy

You are the potter Lord,
I am the clay.
Make me and mould me every day.
Change me completely as
I wait on Thee.
Make me just what you
want me to be.
Wonderful Saviour, wonderful Lord.
I worship you for you are adored.
You fill my heart with a song.
As I think of you all day long.

by Pat Murphy

- 175 years ago, on 10 April 1849, American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin. He immediately sold the rights for \$400, which is about \$12,000 today. The company he sold it to made millions from it.

Privileges

For all the privileges I have, I give you thanks.

Thanks for food in my cupboards, for a shelter over my head,

For all the possessions that I treasure,

For the comfort that surrounds me.

I often take all these for granted,

And set my sights on extra "wants."

So often I fail to think of those who through no fault of their own,

Have no place to call home. Their shelter a doorway.

Little food with nowhere to cook,

Public toilets their bathroom.

Looked down on, lazy, not to be trusted, not an asset to society.

Make me more aware of those, who live in my neighbourhood.

Show me ways that I can touch those in society who have so little,

Both with kind words and with actions.

Make me quicker, to show love and compassion, than to judge.

Help me never forget

We are all equal to you

Amen

by Jennifer Pitt



Heaven

Seen in a parish magazine:

"We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven' – how do we get there?"

"Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms".

* * * * *

Jesus can be contacted 24 hours a day: just go on-line via your 'knee-mail' –

Anon

* * * * *

It was not an accident that 17 of the 36 parables of our Lord had to do with property and stewardship – William James Dawson

Emmaus, (Luke 24:13-32) – A Prayer

In the breaking of the bread
Our eyes were opened,
We knew Him then.
The Lord was with us
in Emmaus,
There was no doubt.
He was alive and with us,
The scriptures made sense.
What a difference!

But thinking back
To that journey –
To the grief that overwhelmed us,
The discussions, disagreements
And debilitating disappointment –
A different opening of the eyes,
We never were alone.

Before the word and bread,
Because of the word and bread
He was there,
He is here,
Always,
Walking with us.

by Daphne Kitching, PP



YWAM – Establishing a Christian Lighthouse and Oasis in Egypt

March 2024

*Behold, the **dwelling place of God** is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God himself will be with them as their God. Revelation 21:3.*

Youth With A Mission (YWAM) has recently been given the astounding privilege of worshiping, serving, and living in the presence of the Holy God, in the *House of Hope* in Cairo, Egypt. It is envisioned that with the *House of Hope*, God's personal presence will dwell among His people, in the midst of an Islamic environment.

An ancient nation, Egypt has a fascinating history that spans various eras including, notably, the pharaonic era, the era of Roman occupation and now the Islamic era. Additionally, Egypt also has an interesting place in the history of Christianity. In the first place, the Lord Jesus Christ and his family were refugees in Egypt in the face of Herod's ominous intentions. Egypt was also important in the early Christian era and especially during the eras of the early Church Fathers.

Modern Egypt is a very strategic Islamic country in North Africa and the Arab world where Islam is the religion, both of the State and of the overwhelming majority of the population. It has more than 7,000 mosques and has a great influence in the Arab and Moslem World. Cairo, the capital is the biggest city in the Middle East.

Christian witness and the Christian voice now struggle to make their presence felt, heard or be seen. This presents both, a challenge and opportunity, for the work of the Kingdom of God and of ministry. A challenge, in the sense that there are official limitations protective of Islam, but an opportunity in the sense of a big field open to working on advancing the good news of the Kingdom of God within the permissible limits of the law.

This is where an organisation like YWAM comes in to engage in the work of advancing the good news of Christ, both among Egyptian seekers and Christians, as well as people living in Egypt but originating from other countries.

YWAM and its Activities

YWAM has been active in Egypt for almost 50 years and has about 80 staff members, both Egyptians and Foreigners. In recent years, YWAM Egypt has been growing in staff numbers, different ministries and training-courses. One of its ministries is to provide a house and facilities to meet the increasing demands of their Christian outreach activities. Such a house has now been made available to them fully meeting their needs in a good location in Cairo, comprising a ground floor with garden, three large apartments, and a roof apartment with terrace. The owner is fully committed to selling the property to YWAM including a lot of

Cont'd.....

YWAM – Establishing a Christian Lighthouse and Oasis in Egypt (cont'd)

inventory. A deposit has been paid, and disciple school activities have already commenced. The challenge now is to fully fund the property over the next 12 months; the outstanding balance being USD 985,000.

The House of Hope

The house which we call *House of Hope* shall be a **lighthouse** in the midst of spiritual darkness in Cairo, and a new Christian space and atmosphere amidst the city's many mosques! A place where God's glory is dwelling according to 1 Kings 8:13: *I have surely built You an exalted house, And a place for You to dwell in forever.*

The **House of Hope** will be a **prayer house** where different Nations come to pray for Egypt and the Nations, and from where people are to be sent forth and onwards into the Arab and Muslim world.



It will be a **safe oasis to host guests** from various organizations, who serve among Egyptians, refugees, and the poorest of the poor, and also a place from which Christian ministry, support and witness are to be provided to seekers and believers, particularly from nearby nations. It will also be a place to **host YWAM Outreach Teams**, mainly young people and groups sent by churches from all over the world. We expect a bed occupancy of around 6500 nights per year.

It will be a **training center** to run different schools to build up Egyptians, and also people from other nations, and to educate and prepare the next generation.

And last but not least, **a community house**, where some of the YWAM staff can live, and where people without hope and purpose in life can find shelter, be encouraged, and gain new hope once more.

We are extremely thankful if you, your community or church will pray for the work of YWAM in Egypt. We would be most grateful if you are able to contribute to the purchase of this property.

Contributions can be made online using any bank or credit card, even if you're not in the US.

The link for donations is: <https://donate.ywamcos.org/partners>

Designated for: **Other**, What is it for: **"SUD-House of Hope"**

If you would like to find out more about our work, our vision and the project, please contact us at the following email address: houseofhope@okegypt.ch. We also offer a long version and financial plan upon request.

YWAM Cairo, Egypt

I worshipped with YWAM members at Maadi Community Church (MCC) in Cairo Egypt some years ago when working in Egypt, and have kept in touch with YWAM members. I can confirm that your prayers and contributions for the House of Hope will be gratefully received.

Martin Frost, St Andrews Methodist Church, Basingstoke, March 2024



Chaplaincy Prayer Letter March 2024

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

After a wet winter we can start to enjoy longer daylight, warmer weather and more spring flowers. It is a time for relaxing after the harshness of winter but also a time for expansion and growth. People relax and spend more time outdoors, and hope grows in many people. Conversations happen. But for some, it seems that the abyss before them deepens.

Chaplains in the courts continue to have a valuable role that is appreciated by the court staff and those who are attending a hearing. To have an independent person to talk to and receive guidance about the court system as well as discuss the implications of their situations is appreciated. Calming fraught nerves helps everyone. Sometimes talk of God's goodness and love, the need for forgiveness and encouragement in life's challenges is of lasting value.

Shop workers face challenging times too due to staffing levels, shop-lifting and threats of violence. Festival Place provides a good level of security support and Chaplains contribute to the well-being of people working there. In building friendships, personal matters are shared and a Chaplain can 'speak God' into them and challenge assumptions about God and church. We hope and pray that through friendships people will come to church and find faith in Jesus Christ.

Throughout the winter Chaplains have been walking around the town centre meeting anyone who wants to talk to them. Now the weather is better we can also share the beauty of Eastrop Park with others who visit and engage in conversations “gossiping the Gospel”.

We may also be able to expand a bit further into other places of need but that requires more time

from Chaplains. If you, or someone you know, would like to join a Chaplain to see what we do you would be very welcome. And if God is calling you to join us maybe the initial step is to experience it first-hand.

Thank you for all your support. May the Lord bless you in your ministry and keep you in His love.

John

John Hayward

Chair of Trustees

Please pray:

- for Chaplains in the courts (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays) and with the police.
- for the good of the town – that people will care for each other, that violence and theft will reduce.
- that God will continue to work in people's hearts that they may be drawn to a church fellowship.
- for good to come from Chaplaincy visits to churches.
- that God will raise up more Chaplains.

Give thanks:

- to God for His goodness towards the Chaplaincy – we feel blessed and guided though the challenges.
- to God for using us to bring calm, peace and reassurance to many people and to be able to share God's love in Jesus with them.

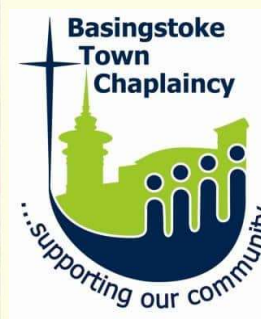
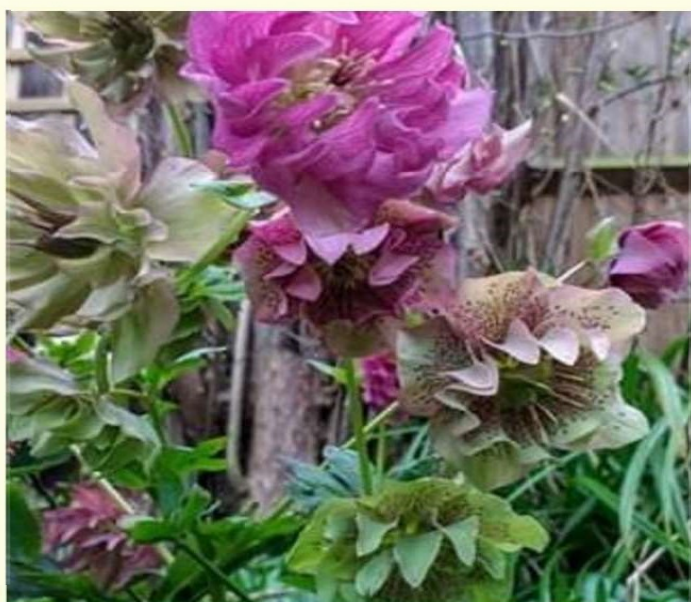
basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk

**Basingstoke
Town
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RG21 7LJ

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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.



Saturday 27th April Pictures of Jesus

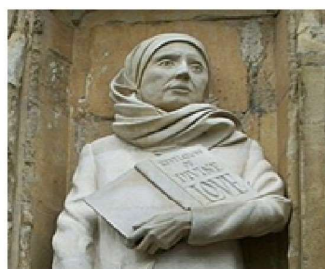
How have we pictured Jesus across the world, through the centuries?
How do we see the face of Christ today?

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

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.

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.

Future 2024 Retreats:

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

Saturday 10 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.

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 16 April, between 11.30 am – 1 pm

Light lunch provided. Bring along crafts of your choice

Gillian Smethurst

- **Worry** – I have so many problems that if a new one comes along today, it will be at least two weeks before I can worry about it.
- **Wages** – Seen on a church notice board: 'Despite inflation, the wages of sin remain the same.'

	<p>At 24.03.24 the Foodbank – <u>Most Needed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custard • Hot & Cold desserts • Loo Roll • Cleaning sprays • Deodorant 	<p>At 24.03.24 the Foodbank – <u>Running Low:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking sauces • Savoury snacks / crisps • Tinned meat • Tinned veg • Tinned fruit • Tinned ravioli • Hair conditioner • Washing up liquid • Toothpaste • Nappies size 5 + • Cat food 	<p><u>We have Plenty:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>At 24.03.24 the Foodbank – <u>Most Needed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long life fruit juice • Tinned tomatoes • Savory spreads, (eg: marmite, peanut butter, meat paste) • Semi-skimmed milk • Coffee 	<p><i>More info on web:</i>www.https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/</p>		

Canon Paul Hardingham – What's the Big Idea? – (series continues), PP

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Leviticus & Numbers

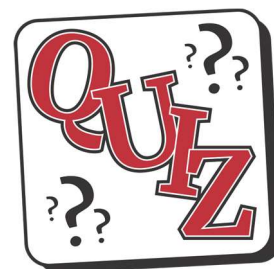
These books are concerned with Israel's wandering in the desert, on their journey from slavery in Egypt to the promised land of Canaan. Leviticus focuses on the regulations about worship, ceremonial cleanness, moral laws and holy days. The key theme is that of *holiness*, as every detail of our lives is affected by the presence of a holy God. The aim of the sacrifices, feast and Sabbaths was to enable the people to enter God's presence. We should see the instructions and practices in Leviticus as pointing to Jesus. He totally fulfilled the law through the sacrifice of His life, as Easter reminds us. He demonstrated the love and holiness of God, so that we can share His life: *'Be holy, because I am holy'* (1 Peter 1:16, cf Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7).

The book of Numbers tells the story of Israel's journey through the wilderness. The people were coming to terms with their *identity* as God's people and the *call* to serve Him. They didn't always respond with faith, gratitude and obedience, but with unbelief, ingratitude and rebellion. As a result of their refusal to enter Canaan (ch 14), they were condemned to spend the rest of their lives in the desert. However, God in His grace allowed their children to enter the Promised Land. The book reminds us that the Church is called to be a community that honours God, learns how to deal with sin in ourselves and others, and lives out love and justice in daily life.

'The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.' (Numbers 6:24-26).

Quiz on the Book of Numbers

- How many chapters are there in the Book of Numbers?
34
35
36
- "*Bemidbar*," the Hebrew title of the book "Numbers" means what?
In the beginning
In the wilderness
Accounting
- What does the book of Numbers describe?
the priestly rituals and rules for conduct
the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt
the numbering of God's people
- How many years will the Israelites wander in the wilderness?
30
40
50
- What tribe was given the responsibility of doing the work of the tabernacle?
Asher
Judah
Levi
- In Numbers 16, a man named Korah led a rebellion against Moses. How did God end this rebellion?
They were all stricken with leprosy.
They were eaten by worms.
The ground opened up and swallowed them.



Pixabay

Quiz on the Book of Numbers (continued)

7. Why does God prohibit Moses from entering Canaan in Numbers 20?
because he spoke to the rock
because he threw the rock
because he strikes the rock
8. What did Moses hold up in Numbers 21, to heal the people who had been bitten by poisonous snakes when they looked at it?
The Ten Commandments
A Brass Serpent
Aaron's Rod
9. When the twelve spies were sent to Canaan, how many returned with a good report?
Two
Twelve
One
10. 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' What are these verse from Numbers 6 called?
The Shema
The Mezzuzah
The Aaronic Blessing

Answers can be found on page 24

The Easter Glow

For three years Jesus had held the tiny band together, through journeyings, storms and opposition. And now – following a public trial and execution – He was gone. Take away the dominant figure, and an organisation can quickly crumble. Take Theudas, an earlier messianic claimant. Once killed, his 400 devotees melted away. Then there was Judas the Galilean. When he, too, was removed, the movement scattered.

Now, it was Easter Day. Here were two disciples walking to Emmaus. As far as they were concerned, their leader was dead. The 'scattering' process had already begun. It had started on that fateful Thursday evening of Christ's arrest, when Jesus had quoted to His disciples from the prophet Zechariah: "It is written 'I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered'" (Matthew 26:31). The dream was over. "Let's go home – back to Emmaus." *Yet Luke 24 is the glowing account of the entire re-building of a worldview.* As the apparent Stranger joins the two, it was like the uncorking of a bottle; the story pours out. Surely *crucifixion and the future Redeemer of Israel had nothing to do with each other!*

Then began a fascinating Bible study on the road. Evidently in their studies, the two had skipped the passages that spoke of a suffering Messiah. The Stranger says, "Let me fill in those bits for you." Now the figures of a Conquering King and a Suffering Servant begin to coalesce into a single photo fit. Then, at supper with the two, comes the familiar action of the breaking of bread, and – *Why.... it's Jesus.* The disciples rush the seven miles back to Jerusalem. They can't keep the glowing news of the risen Christ to themselves! If Jesus had not been bodily raised from the grave, the demoralised movement – like those of Theudas and Judas the Galilean – would have folded within days. And you and I would never have heard of Him! **taken from PP**

The Story behind the Hymn: 'Christ Arose!'

This Easter marks the 150th birthday of this much-loved hymn, sung each year by millions of Christians worldwide. It all began on a little pump organ in the living room of a college professor in Pennsylvania, back in 1874.

Robert Lowry was professor of literature at Bucknell University, and pastor of a nearby church. He had a passion for poetry and music, and explained his 'muse' this way: "I watch my moods and when anything strikes me, whether words or music, no matter where I am, at home, on the street, I jot it down. My brain is a sort of spinning machine, for there is music running through it all the time. Sometimes the words come, and the music follows."

Easter 1874 was approaching, and on this particular day Robert Lowry had been meditating on the gospel narratives of the Passion and Resurrection. The angel's words at the empty tomb, 'He is not here, but is risen' kept running through his mind. There was something there... Lowry moved to the little pump organ in his living room and gave himself up to the moment. Soon the words and the music for this joyous Easter hymn just fell into place.

Christ Arose

Low in the grave He lay
Jesus my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day,
Jesus my Lord!



*Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign,
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Pixabay

Vainly they watch His bed,
Jesus my Saviour!
Vainly they seal the dead,
Jesus my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey,
Jesus my Saviour!
He tore the bars away,
Jesus my Lord!

By Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

- It's nice to have five years between elections. It takes people that long to regain their faith
Anon
- Do not believe in miracles...rely on them –
Anon
- Every day is a gift; that's why they call it the present – *Anon*
- Friendship is a responsibility...not an opportunity – *Anon*
- The two hardest things to handle in life are failure and success – *Anon*

- There are two sides to every question, and a politician usually takes both – *Anon*
- Honesty is a question of right and wrong, not a matter of policy –
Anon

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

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



Recycling of Plastic Milk Bottle Tops – If you have plastic milk bottle tops (*only milk ones*) & 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**



Him and me, (Jn21: Jn16:23)

In the end it's all about Him and me,
And my relationship with Him.

He fed me with fish,
Caught at His command,
He forgave me for my denials and
my doubt,

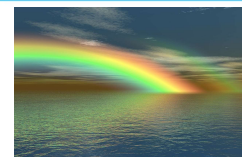
And He called me
To emulate His feeding and forgiving.
He called me to love Him
And His sheep,
To feed them,
To make known His love.

But in the end it's really all about Him
and me,
And my relationship with Him.

Never mind the others, He said,
In this world you will have trouble,
You will be persecuted
And criticised
And accused
And undermined,
But *never mind*,
Never mind,
Look up,
Be steadfast,
Never mind the others,
You ... follow me.

by Daphne Kitching, PP

The Rainbow



The world was so wicked
that God made it rain
For forty long days and long nights
The floodwaters covered both
mountain and plain
They covered the highest of heights!

But Noah survived, because he – free from guilt
Kept the Word of his God in his mind
So he and his kin, in the ark he had built
Lived with two beasts of every kind.

They floated by night and they floated by day
No sign of the land could they spy;
Till at last came the day when the
flood drained away
And a rainbow was seen in the sky.

And God said to Noah, "You see that bright bow?
"That rainbow up there in the sky?
"Now I've put it there as a sure sign to show
"Of a promise twixt mankind and I.

"In future you'll know that I won't make it rain
"So the whole earth is flooded that deep.
"Now the rainbow is there and will be again –
"And you'll know that this promise I'll keep."

On days when it seems that the rain just won't go
And the floodwaters fill us with fear;
At last comes the sun and the
bright coloured bow –
Our God made that rainbow appear.

by Nigel Beeton, PP

Cat's Eyes – 90 years ago, on 3 April 1934, a very clever man named Percy Shaw patented a device that he'd invented called a 'cat's eye' – a pair of reflectors mounted on a well between the white lines in the centre of a road or between lanes on a dual carriageway (which were few and far between in 1934!)

Cat's eyes

When you drive on a road late at night
And the dark is affecting your sight;
At that time of day, It's easy to stray
Too far with your car to the right!

But we've been protected from tears
For most of the past ninety years,
Since a man who was wise, Invented cat's eyes
So the edge of your lane now appears!

Now drivers, protected from frights
By mirrors reflecting our lights,
May shout 'hip-hooray!'
At all times of day,
And drive with no fear of the nights!

by Nigel Beeton, PP

Norma Murrain designs Christian jewellery and has produced a version of the Coventry Passion Cross. (www.silverfishjewellery.co.uk). As Easter approaches, she contemplates the Coventry Passion Cross...

The Coventry Passion Cross

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement that bought us peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed."
Isaiah 53:4-6

Coventry Cathedral uses as its emblem the Coventry Passion Cross – three nails together forming the Cross of Christ. Here is my reflection on the Coventry Passion Cross; what does this design mean to you?

The first nail is the carpenter's nail and focuses us on the purpose of the nail. We are reminded that Jesus worked as a carpenter before entering His ministry. As He sat there in His carpenter's workshop, smoothing and working the wood with love, did He contemplate the rugged cross on which He would one day be crucified? As He hammered nails into wood, did He ever accidentally hammer one into His finger, and as He felt that pain, did He foresee the nails of His crucifixion? As He carried large logs to His workshop to make tables, chairs, and doors, did He contemplate the cross he would one day carry to Calvary? **The second nail** is the nail of **Passion**, it represents the nails in Jesus' hands and feet that He accepted because of His passionate love for us.

The third nail is the nail of Promise, like the promise He made to the dying thief on the cross. It was that if we believe in Him, then we will reign with Him in paradise. This is the nail that Christ offers to you and to me. Will you accept this nail as a sign of His passionate love, His forgiveness of your sin and promise of eternal life for all who will come to Him? If so, why not pray the following prayer this Eastertide?

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that You have a plan and a purpose for my life, thank You for Your passionate love for me, thank You that Your blood was shed for my sins, thank You for Your promise of eternal life. As I think about that nail of promise, I receive Your passion, Your grace and Your forgiveness, may I fulfil Your plan and purpose for my life, In Jesus name, Amen. **from PP**

Answers to the Quiz, on pages 20 & 21:

1. 36
2. In the wilderness
3. The numbering of God's people
4. 40
5. Levi
6. The ground opened up and swallowed them.
7. Because he struck the rock instead of speaking to it
8. A brass serpent
9. Two
10. The Aaronic Blessing



- Prayer meetings are the throbbing machinery of the church – C H Spurgeon

The God who Answers Prayer

There is a God who answers prayer
Who intercedes before the throne,
The Son of God who ever cares,
Do not believe you walk alone.

When life seems hard, no answers come
He knows the path that you now tread
Believe on Him though all seems lost
He knows about the tears you shed.

Hold on to Him who is your strength,
Although it seems there's no way through,
Though pain and heartache both are near,
Who holds the world holds also you.

There is a day when all is clear
A day when we all understand
That all our lives but marked a way
That led us to the Promised Land.

by Megan Carter, PP

Worldwide Persecution of Christians on the Increase

More than 365 million Christians worldwide now face persecution and discrimination for their faith. Entire Christian communities face extinction in some parts of the world. Those in sub-Saharan Africa are especially at risk, because of increasingly authoritarian regimes and violence, so warns the latest global study of persecution.

The World Watch List 2024 is compiled by the charity Open Doors. It rates the top 50 countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian. This year, something new has emerged: the countries listed have not changed since 2023, and there are no new countries to the list, but the level of violence experienced by Christians globally has grown exponentially in just this past year. Open Doors reports a *sevenfold* increase in reported attacks on churches, Christian schools, and Christian hospitals. In 2022 there were 2,110 such attacks. In 2023 it was 14,766. Attacks on the homes of Christians have also soared – by 371 per cent. A staggering *one in seven* Christians worldwide now faces a high level of persecution and discrimination.

This is the 30th year that the World Watch List has been compiled and published. The countries are scored by various factors: pressure levels in private life, family life, community life, and national life, and on church communities, as well as violence levels. This year's list covers the period between 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023. The chief executive of Open Doors UK, Henrietta Blyth, says that Christian minorities in East and West Africa face an existential threat from jihadists and autocratic regimes. Jihadists are viciously attacking Christians across sub-Saharan Africa: Somalia, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Mali, to name just some countries.

In Nigeria, things have got particularly bad, where Islamist extremism is threatening many Christian communities. In fact, the murder of Christians in Nigeria accounts for a staggering *82 per cent of ALL Christians killed for their faith worldwide*. Last year 4118 such murders were recorded, though many more were never even reported. Open Doors has praised UK government efforts to become a global leader in standing up for the freedom of religion and belief, but it urges that the position of the Prime Minister's special envoy, currently held by Fiona Bruce MP, should be turned into a permanent, statutory post. **taken from PP**

Where is the Most Generous Place in the UK?

The fundraising website GoFundMe has praised the British public, as recent figures show that it receives a donation every second of every day. The generosity of the British can even be broken down into regions. Last year Manchester was the most generous place in the UK, with 43,135 donations, while Liverpool (36,739), Brighton (19,641), Lisburn (11,122) and Saint Albans (10,474) came in second, third, fourth and fifth respectively. This past year, many British donors have given to the victims of conflicts and natural disasters, from Ukraine to Syria, Turkey to Morocco, not forgetting those impacted by the various storms that battered the UK itself.

One notable success was for victims of Storm Babet, whose homes were flooded in Chesterfield. The fundraiser, organised by a team at Lifehouse Church in the town, raised more than £92,000, from a total of 1,600 donations. All in all, the UK was ranked as the third most generous country in the world per capital, with more than four million donations made last year. Tim Cadogan, chief executive of GoFundMe, said the organisation has now celebrated its "billion-pound milestone" of donations raised from the UK since its inception in 2017, and he estimates a quarter of a billion pounds was raised on the platform in 2023 alone – which he said were "incredible numbers". **taken from PP**



For the Young & Young at heart

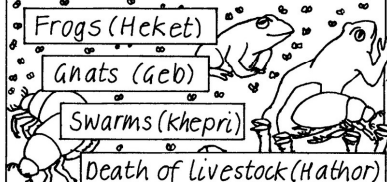
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

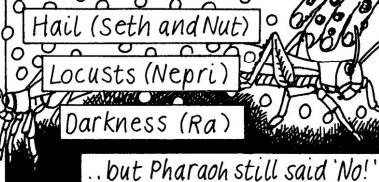
It can be read in the Bible in
Exodus 7:14-10:29, 12:21-23, 29-33, 14:5-29

God told Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt, but he refused. God then showed his power over Egypt (and its gods)...

The Nile turned blood red (Hapi)



Boils and sores (Sekhmet)



God told the Hebrews to prepare to leave, and each family to kill and cook a lamb. He told them...



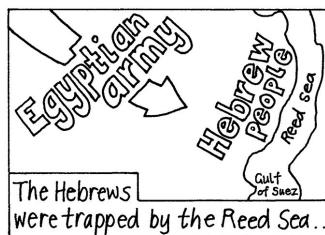
Mark your house door with the lamb's blood.



That night, in each un-marked house, the eldest son died.



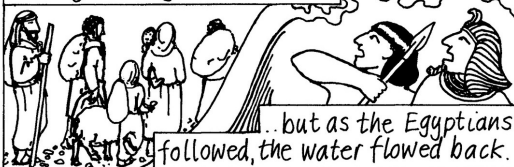
The Hebrews left Egypt...



God made a cloud to hide them from the Egyptians...

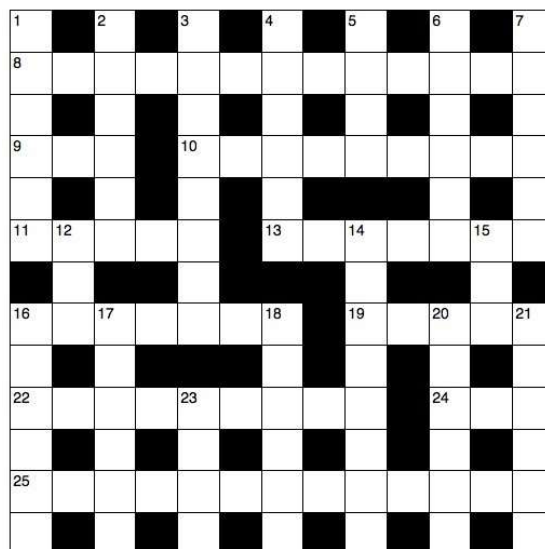


and sent a wind. By morning the sea bed was dry and they walked across...

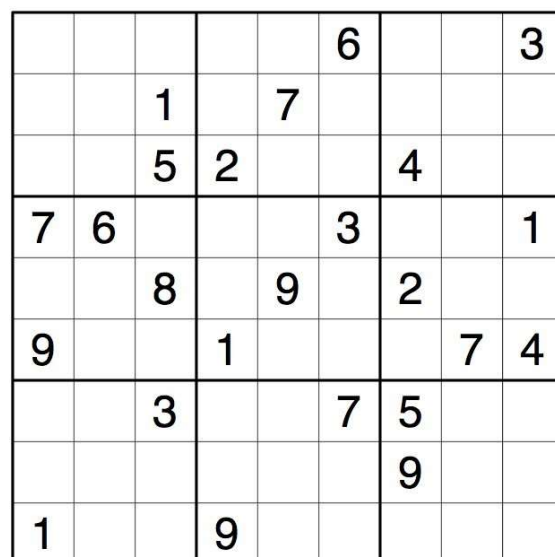


PUZZLES

Crossword



Sudoku



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EGENLEGENDSN
RGCAEPLRRYEHE
EOOIAIEPOMEED
IEUTVRRMMRSEL
DARECFFFOARIO
LOALNGDMIYXEG
NLGCEIRNTLLET
LCEODETREVNO
ISRILEASXRNEE
SGDDNMNHELPER
ERLADTENGLEND
NOGARDHROMANE
SROELRLILEDPO

St George of the Golden Legend – St

George, Patron Saint of England, never came here. He was a Christian officer in the Roman army under Diocletian & refused to abandon his faith during the Terror. George was therefore martyred in Palestine about 300 AD. His courage became legendary & St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives.

George	Roman	Palestine	Evil
Patron	Courage	Princess	Hero
Diocletian	Example	England	Army
Officer	Martyred	Helper	Saint
Terror	Soldier	Golden	
Converted	Dragoon	Legend	

Mouse Makes

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered. He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net. Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"

How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this? Read John 21:14

How many disciples were there? Who were they? Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11

READ the story in John 21

DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEAL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish

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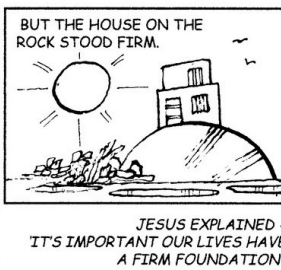
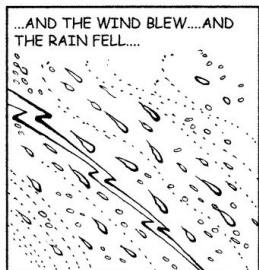
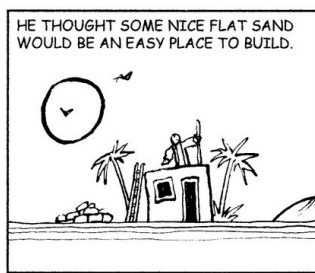
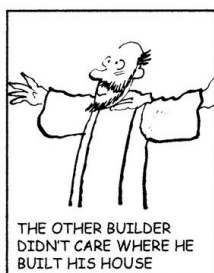
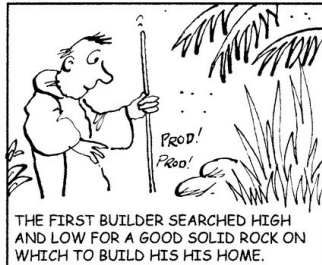
Crossword Clues – Down:

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

Crossword Clues – Across

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)





Puzzle Pages Solutions

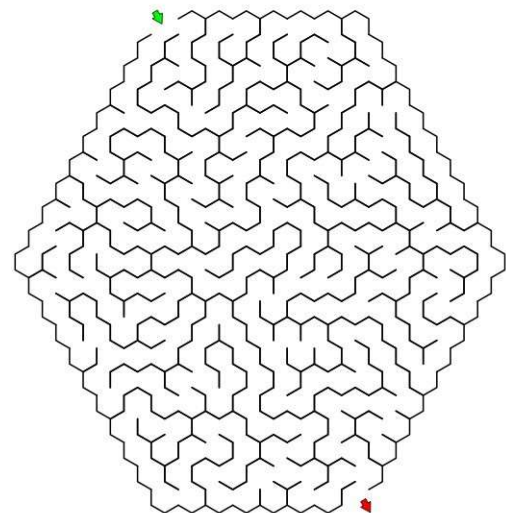
Across: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

Down: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

Sudoku Solution

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

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



- It's easy to be an angel when no one ruffles your feathers – Anon



Nile	Door	House	Locusts	Lamb	Power
Army	Wind	Egyptians	Slaves	Water	Pharoah
Gnats	Swarms	Hail	Sea	Hebrews	Blood
Family	Frogs	Cloud	Darkness	Livestock	Death