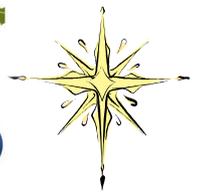


MTC



# Trinity E-News



Issue 10 / 21 Trinity's email: [trinity@basingstokecircuit.net](mailto:trinity@basingstokecircuit.net) Dec 21/Jan 22



Our Minister is:  
**Rev'd Audrey D Browne**  
☎: 01256 323103  
email:  
[padbrowne89@googlemail.com](mailto:padbrowne89@googlemail.com)

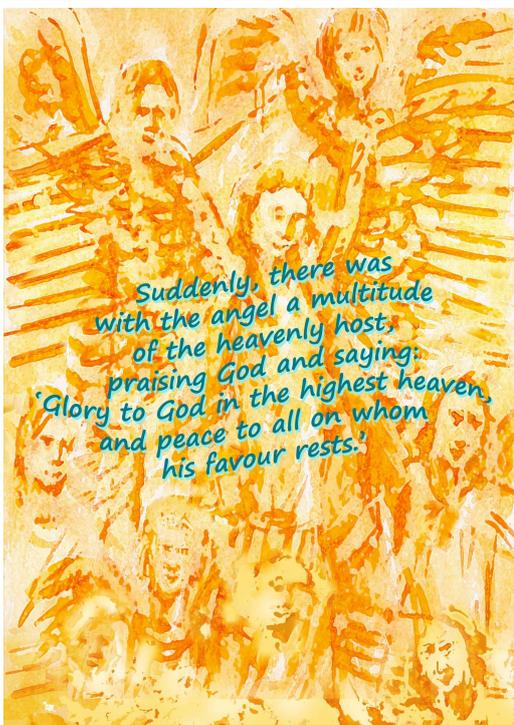


**Great News –  
Live Sunday  
Worship held Every  
Sunday at Trinity  
and Services  
Zoomed.**

Our thanks to all our  
**'Zoom team'** who  
enable those at home to  
share in Worship with us  
via Zoom.  
We are very grateful for  
their continued help  
and expertise.

Link to our Website:

<https://www.basingstoke-readingmethodists.uk/>



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**We wish all our readers a very  
Happy & Joyful Christmas and New  
Year from the Newsletter team**



**Trinity E-News – Deadline for February 2022 Issue is Friday 21 January 2022**

Trinity E-News is also available on our **B & R Website**.

I so look forward to receiving your lovely and varied articles, **please keep them coming**.  
**A Big Thankyou** to everyone who has sent in articles, items can be emailed or posted.

**Thank you again, Hazel, Ed**

(☎: 01256-461375) **Email: [hazel@basingstokecircuit.net](mailto:hazel@basingstokecircuit.net)**

16B Portacre Rise, Basingstoke, RG21 1YQ.

Dec 2021 &amp; Jan 2022

Dear Friends,

## Wait Hope Present

In the run up to Christmas and the New Year these three words have been very much in my mind. You may imagine that I have been thinking back to those sleepless Christmas Eve nights when, as a young child, I lay awake waiting for the jingle of reindeer harness and the sound of Santa's sleigh on the roof in the hope that a present would be waiting for me in the morning. That would be partly true, but this year these words have caused my mind and imagination to range a bit wider.....so come with me as we explore the significance of these three words for us as Christians at the end of 2021 and the dawn of a new year.

### WAIT

For all of us (and especially in the travel industry) there have been a lot of deadlines in the year past, as we have waited for various restrictions to lift or permission for certain activities to restart in the light of Covid numbers. It has seemed that in many ways life has had a "wait" sign placed over it and we have all been forced to retreat into our homes, our shells and into isolation.

It has dawned (although slowly) on me that in life there are so many types different types of waiting and words to describe them; anticipation, expectation, dread, fear, anxiety....I am sure that we have experienced them all. We wait for buses and trains, we wait for news of family, the results of exams or medical tests, for parcels to arrive, for special events like Birthdays.

Waiting is part of our lives and in the season of Advent we experience a special kind of waiting as we count down the days until we celebrate the coming of a Saviour who is, and was the answer to God's promise to Israel, and through them to the whole world.

At the time of Jesus' birth, the Israelites had been through wars, slavery, occupation, a succession of leaders who had failed or betrayed them and they were still waiting for the

leader God had promised.

However, God didn't give them the *PRESENT* they were expecting. How often does this happen at Christmas when what we unwrap is neither what we hoped for, what we wanted, or what we need.

As his *PRESENT* to us and to Israel God sent a baby, born in a stable to a family on the run and well down the socio-economic ladder. The Israelites were expecting superman so it's not surprising that they didn't recognise Jesus as God's messiah.

The word *PRESENT* has a number of definitions in the English language. Two of these are "existing or occurring now" and "a thing given to someone as a gift"

Our Present (occurring right now) is full of *HOPE* because of the very precious *PRESENT* God gave us in his son, Jesus.

In this time when it seems that the whole world (our world) is out of control we have a *HOPE* in Jesus and in his promises. It's okay if this year you have questioned that hope, if there have been times when you haven't felt it or couldn't even believe that it was a possibility. Even when you can't feel it *HOPE* exists and God's promises endure.

I have found these verses from the Book of Lamentations really helpful;

'Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope.  
Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed  
for his compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness'.

### **Lamentations 3 v21-23**

It's important that the promise of Christmas comes before we step into a new year, because it gives us the courage to go forward. We go forward as individuals but also together with a purpose and a hope, a leader and an

example, Jesus. We can trust him and he will never betray us or let us down.

I think that is summed up in the following extract from a poem by Gideon Heugh (senior copywriter at Tear fund)

*'What do you see when you look into your sky?  
Darkness? Confusion? Storm clouds  
thundering the question Why? Why me?  
Why now? Why does it have to be so hard?  
Why him? Why her? Do I always have to  
end up scarred?*

*Look Closer.  
Even though it may seem faint,  
Still you will see a star beckoning you to  
follow,  
Promising that though it hurts tonight  
something new will be born tomorrow.  
Something new will be born  
something new will be born,  
everything that's been broken, shattered and  
torn will be healed,  
hearts will be mended and true love's face  
revealed.  
So even though you've fallen, know that you  
will be restored,  
For there's a star in the sky, pointing  
towards a Saviour, guiding you to the Lord'.*

**Hilary Reed**

**C**hrist has come.  
**H**eralded by angels.  
**R**evealed to us in a stable.  
**I**nnkeeper saves the day.  
**S**hepherds play their part.  
**T**ravelling from afar,  
**M**agi bring their gifts.  
**A** gift from God.  
**S**aviour is here.  
  
**Jennifer Pitt**



**Christmas Post Pigeonholes**

**Once again, we regret to announce that the Christmas post Pigeonholes will not be in use this Christmas, since we are continuing with measures to reduce crowded spaces at Trinity.**

**Please do not just leave cards for others lying around at Church. Thank you.**

**Tony Pitt**

- Peace is a free gift, and it flows from the pure mercy of God – *John Calvin*
- We rob ourselves of much joy if we forget the loving and caring presence all round about us of the angels of God – *Maurice Roberts*
- Christ became what we are that He might make us what He is – *Athanasius*

## Sunday Worship at Trinity & the Basingstoke Churches

Below is the plan for Worship for Dec 21 and Jan & Feb 22 for our Basingstoke Churches, including **Christmas Day Worship**. **Live Sunday Worship continues at Trinity each Sunday Morning with Services also Zoomed**. Any enquiries please contact Diane Bath on: (☎: 01256 320429) or by email at: [dianeath51@gmail.com](mailto:dianeath51@gmail.com) Thank you.



### Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Plan Dec 21 & Jan 22 (Basingstoke Churches)

Sundays Dec 2021 + Mon 20 & Sat 25 Dec	5 Dec, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent	12 Dec, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	19 Dec, 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	Mon 20 Dec	Sat 25 Dec Christmas Day Services	Sun 26 Dec Boxing Day
Trinity 10.00 am 10.30 am  3.00 pm	Revd A Browne, S	Mr T Pitt & Mrs A Walker	<b>NO Morning Service</b>  3.00 pm Joint Carol Service at Trinity, Revd A Browne	3.00 pm Christingle Service, JAM Leaders	10.00 am Joint Service at Trinity, Revd A Browne	<b>NO SERVICE</b>
Kempshott 10.30 am  4.00 pm	Revd M Beukes, S	Revd J Dowding, Zoom	Mrs S Whithorn, Zoom  4 pm Carol Service	-	9.15 am Service	<b>NO SERVICE</b>
Oakley 10.30 am	Revd J Sumitra	LA	Revd A Browne, S Carol Serv	-	10.00 am Service	<b>NO SERVICE</b>
Oakridge 11.00 am	Rev D Jenkins, S	Mrs P Jose	Mr P Frank	-	10.30 am Service, Mrs J Coomber	Revd D Jenkins
Old Basing 10.30 am	Mr C Marsh	LA, Carol Service	Revd D Jenkins, S	-	10.00 am Service Revd D Jenkins	-
St Andrew's 10.30 am	Mrs K Kelly	Revd A Browne, S	3.00 pm Joint Carol Service at Trinity	-	10.00 am Joint Service at Trinity	<b>NO SERVICE</b>

Sundays Jan 2022	2 Jan	9 Jan	16 Jan	23 Jan	30 Jan
Trinity 10.30 am	Joint Service at St Andrew's	Joint Covenant Service at Trinity, Revd A Browne, Cov / S	Mrs A Rowe	Mr T Rowell	Mrs J Hardcastle
Kempshott 10.30 am	Revd M Beukes, Cov / S	Revd J Sumitra, Zoom	Revd P Frank, Zoom	Mrs S Whithorn, Zoom	Mr T Rowell, Zoom
Oakley 10.30 am	Mr P Frank	Mrs J Hardcastle	Revd A Browne, Cov / S	Mrs L Hoe	Mr C Marsh
Oakridge 11.00 am	Revd D Jenkins, Cov / S	Mr T Rowell	Mr H Ballard	LA	Mrs J Norris
Old Basing 10.30 am	Mrs J Hardcastle	Mr T Bell	Revd D Jenkins, S	LA	Revd J Sumitra
St Andrew's 10.30 am	Joint at St Andrews	Joint at Trinity, Cov/S	Mrs L Hoe	Mrs K Kelly	LA

Sundays Feb 2022	6 Feb	13 Feb	20 Feb	27 Feb
Trinity 10.30 am	Mrs A Walker & Mr P Ansell	Mr S Appiah	Mr T Pitt & Mrs H Reed	Revd D Jenkins, S
Kempshott 10.30 am	Revd M Beukes, S	Mr T Bell, Zoom	LA, Zoom	Mrs S Whithorn, Zoom
Oakley 10.30 am	LA	Mr T Rowell	Mr S Turner	Revd A Browne, S
Oakridge 11.00 am	Revd D Jenkins, S	Revd J Sumitra	LA	Revd Andrew DeVille
Old Basing 10.30 am	Mr P Frank	Mrs D Baugh	Revd D Jenkins, S	Revd D Shaw
St Andrew's 10.30 am	Mr S Appiah, S	Mrs L Hoe	Mrs K Kelly	Mrs L Hoe

### 'Mission in Britain' & 'World Mission' Boxes

If you have 'Mission in Britain' or 'World Mission' Boxes, **Jean and Diane** will be happy to receive them asap for counting. These charities will be very appreciative of your donations. Thank you.

*A Librarian drew attention to a wayside pulpit notice attached to a little chapel:  
'when you were christened, your mother brought you here; when you were married,  
your partner brought you here; when you die, your friends will bring you here;  
why not try coming on your own some time'.*

**Useful Trinity & Other Contacts,  
Phone Numbers & Emails:**

**Our Minister:** Rev'd Audrey D Browne,  
☎: 01256 323103 / **NEW** email address is:  
[padbrowne89@googlemail.com](mailto:padbrowne89@googlemail.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Church Office:** ☎ 01256-816173  
email: [trinity@basingstokecircuit.net](mailto:trinity@basingstokecircuit.net)

**Our Church Office** is Open 1 morning a week, on  
Wednesdays.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Church Contact / Senior Steward:** Diane Bath –  
☎ 01256 320429 / e-mail: [r\\_bath@sky.com](mailto:r_bath@sky.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Bookings / Car Parking: Contact:** Sue Doust –  
☎ 01256 229456 / e-mail: [rogerdoust@aol.com](mailto:rogerdoust@aol.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Church Treasurer:** David Gunton –  
☎ 01256 352342 / e-mail: [david@gunton.org](mailto:david@gunton.org)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Church Property:** Tony Pitt –  
☎ 01256 816314 / email: [organista@btinternet.com](mailto:organista@btinternet.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Trinity E-News Editor:** Hazel Harris – email is:  
[hazel@basingstokecircuit.net](mailto:hazel@basingstokecircuit.net) ☎ 01256-461375  
address: 16B Portacre Rise, B/Stoke, RG21 8YQ

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**Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website:**  
[www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](http://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk)

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

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**Trinity Methodist Church** is a Registered Charity,  
Charity No. is 1128299

\* \* \* \* \*

**Circuit Administrator:** Mrs Marion Young can be  
contacted by phone on: **07503 652961** (the phone  
is only on during working hours) or at:  
[marion@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](mailto:marion@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk)

**Worship Meeting  
at Trinity  
Friday 3 December  
at 2 pm  
In the Lounge**

**'Jesus And Me' ! (JAM)**

**'JAM'** meets next from  
**2.30 pm – 4.30 pm**

**on the following Sundays:**

**5 December**

**9 January**

**6 February**



**Children & Families** meet in  
the Lounge, *usually* on the  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** of the month,  
to hear stories of Jesus,  
craft, singing and tea.

**All are very welcome.**

**Do come along and join us.**



- Whatever we hold to ourselves is loss.

Whatever we give to God is gain –

*Gilbert Shaw*

**#smalltalk with Revd David Shaw:**

Wesley Methodist Church YouTube channel has a series of small videos (46 as of counting) presented by Revd David Shaw which are between 3 – 4 minutes long. The latest two are about Prayer and Christian Aid. These can be found here and are highly recommended.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWw6jNpYWu4z52t760p7UJg/video>

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

Our warmest Birthday Wishes  
to: *Peter Heath*

who Celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
on the 21 December  
with love from all your Trinity Friends xx



## TRINITY CIRCLE



Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 14 December 2021 at 7.30 pm** in either the Lounge or the Hall. It will be a **Christmas Evening** and is open to everyone. We are having tea / coffee etc during the evening and will ask for the usual donation of £1 a head for this. To make it easier, **please could you bring your own cup / mug with you.** Our meeting in January is on **Tuesday 11 January 2022** and is a Members' Evening in the Hall. This will **start at 7 pm** and we will provide you with more information about this at our December meeting.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again, *Sonia*

**St Andrew's Methodist Church**  
invites you to  
**The Big Sing**  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 2.00 p.m. till 3.30 p.m.  
Mince pies and non alcoholic mulled wine  
will be available during the interval.  
Together, let us sing our favourite Carols to  
celebrate the birth of our Saviour

## House-groups – Are you interested?

I have been attending a house-group here in Basingstoke for the last 25 years, and previous to that I was in a house-group at my last church. You may ask *why?* We have met for bible study, discussion, fellowship and social activities in someone's home (usually accompanied by tea and biscuits!) We have invited speakers and had outings.



For me a group like this is an important “extra” to my membership of the Methodist Church, as a way of understanding more of the Scriptures and feeling free to ask questions. There is a great value in the fellowship that grows with a group and we can share anything with each other from things we are struggling with to things we are thankful for. This is not mandatory of course and some people like to come and listen without having to air their views.

It is possible that we may start a new group if enough people are interested. Of course all house-groups are different and the new group would decide what they want from it.

**THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO BE A PART OF IT! Don't miss it.**

Please contact **Jennifer Pitt** by phone, email or in person if you would be interested in joining a house-group.

**from Pauline Ansell**



### Dial-a-Prayer

**FREEPHONE** numbers for Prayers, Reflections and News from the Methodist Church

- Listen to a Prayer: 0808 281 2514
- Listen to a Pastoral Message from the President & Vice President: 0808 281 2695
- Listen to our Podcast: 0808 281 2478
- Prayer updated every Thursday,
- Presidential message updated every Monday,
- Methodist Podcast updated fortnightly on Thursday.

Kneel and orship this baby so small.  
He is Jesus, King of Kings and  
Lord of all.

He came for you and  
He came for me.  
To bring salvation and set us free.  
What a wonderful gift from our  
Father above.  
Given so freely and given with love.

**Pat Murphy**



*Seven-year-old Joan, our neighbour's daughter, had been off school for several days, as she was feeling poorly, and her four-year-old sister was asked by a friend how Joan was. She received this reply: "She's a lot better, she's been to see the doctor and he's given her some medicine. But we can't play with her, 'cos on the bottle it says, 'Keep away from children'."*

# H O P E

St Andrews Methodist Church  
Western Way, South Ham  
Basingstoke



You are invited to come and rest for a while and watch and listen to

## The Christmas Story

on the following days and times

Monday 20 December 2021	10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.
Tuesday 21 December 2021	10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.
Wednesday 22 December 2021	10.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.

The Mug and Biscuit Café will be open during these times and hot drinks and cakes can be purchased.



FREE MINCE PIES



The above is subject to Covid Regulations in place at the time



**Peace** – Blessed are the peacemakers; they will never be unemployed.

## Christmas Past



Christmas Day 1955 was on a Sunday. It was the Christmas break from college. We were permitted to leave on Christmas Eve, and I can imagine my parents' excitement, partly for the Season, and largely for my home coming. My mother loved Christmas. There was nothing about it, which did not fill her with the wonder.

It wasn't many years after the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war, and she would have been preparing for several weeks. The main joy was being together. I am an only child and being home made our circle complete. I can't remember the detail, but I know we would have laughed a lot, ate too much, and played simple games. The old favorites, Ludo, Snakes and Ladders etc.

During the week of the college break, I was able to visit friends, and it was at one of these visits, that something unexpected happened. The short bus ride brought me to The Salvation Army Corps in Bromley Kent. It was like old times in the Bible Class. We would have joined in happy conversation, sharing experiences, and some Christmas treats too.

As the evening went on, I suddenly started experiencing severe pain. These were the days before car ownership, as it is now, so I excused myself from the group, caught the bus, and somehow arrived back home. My mother immediately summoned the doctor, and at midnight I was in the operating theatre of Lewisham hospital. I had an appendicectomy and stayed in hospital for a further two weeks.

I hadn't returned to college. Where was I? Was I coming back, or was the course too much? Gradually my friends learned of my whereabouts, after they were informed by college personnel. Then they could visit, although this was restricted.

On looking back in my record book, a college requirement, I see I was absent until the beginning of February 1956. During this time my parents would have looked after me, and generally attended to my wellbeing. Many the prayers offered; I am sure.

Looking back on those days now, I thank God for people who loved me, and especially my parents particularly my Mum, who insisted on the doctor's visit at this late hour. I was informed my condition would have been much more serious in the morning.

My friends visited with grapes etc. lots of smiles, and laughter, which hurt me so much, but was worth it. I can still see their faces in my mind's eye.

Many Christmases have passed since then, and we are blessed to see another Christmas.

So, as we shop for gifts this year, let's remember God's wondrous gift, of his Son as a babe in Bethlehem. Thank him for his love over the years, and understand the greatest gift we can ever give, is ourselves.

God bless you.

**Margaret Garland**

### **Christmas Activities, by Bethan James, Authentic, £2.50**

All the events of the first Christmas are retold and illustrated in this small format paperback book with on-the-page puzzles and activities to complete. Kids will enjoy reading the story and immersing themselves in the related activities. With attractive colour illustrations, age-appropriate text and a variety of puzzles, the book could be useful in church outreach activities with children aged four to seven. A little book for little fingers!

## ADVENT REFLECTIONS OPEN TO ALL

**At Old Basing Methodist Church, on Thursdays at 2.30 pm**



**Session 2 on 9<sup>th</sup> December “Beyond the Chocolate Window”**

**Session 3 on 16<sup>th</sup> December “Walking backwards to Christmas”**

**At Oakridge Methodist Church, on Sundays at 3.30 pm**

**Session 2 on 5<sup>th</sup> December “Beyond the Chocolate Window”**

**Session 3 on 12<sup>th</sup> December “Walking backwards to Christmas”**

## The Mug and Biscuit

The Mug and Biscuit at St Andrews Church has reopened.



***New hours of opening are:***  
**Tuesday 10 am to 12 noon**  
**Thursday 10 am to 12 noon**



On both days **drinks, home-made cakes and toasted tea cakes** will be available to purchase.

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



**The Mug and Biscuit Team**

Any queries contact:

**Linda Hoe ☎: 07963 583506**



## Dwindling Wildlife in Britain

Be kind to the wildlife in your garden – what little of it remains. The UK is one of the world’s most nature-depleted countries, and it may not even have enough biodiversity – variety of plant and animal life – to prevent an ecological meltdown. That is the finding of new data by the Natural History Museum. It says that the UK has an average of only 53 per cent of its natural biodiversity left, well below the global average of 75 per cent. Worldwide, scientists warn that the variety of plant and animal life of earth is dwindling fast. It will have a serious impact on human life: “those systems have lost enough to mean that we have to be careful about relying on them functioning in the way that we need them to.”



## Trinity Remembers

At our recent '*Remembrance Day Service*' at Trinity held on **Sunday 14 November**, the following of our Trinity Church Family were remembered with love, all of whom sadly passed away since the beginning of the Pandemic:

*Yvonne Privett*

*Norman Ashworth*

*Freda Durrant*

*Pamela Jones*

*Rita Wade*

*John Jones*

*David MacDonald*

*Geoff Pitt*

*Alison Parker*

*Stanlake Mbavarira*

*Lynden Jones*

*Bill White*

*John Charsley*

*Sylvia Wright*

*Pat Chapman*

*Jill Wigney*

*Terry Ayres*

*Alicia Partridge*

*Roy Jameson*



Above is a picture of the Exhibition at the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop near Andover – **see the next page** for more information, Peter Ansell

## REMEMBRANCE POETRY EXHIBITION

Prior to **Remembrance Sunday on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November** we found out that the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop near Andover were doing an exhibition of WW1 and WW2 poetry and were asking for exhibits to put on display. I am in possession of four pieces of poetry that were written by my Great Grandmother, Evangeline Large between 1914 and 1918, and I decided to send one of them off. They were also asking for a voice recording of the poem which I also sent to them.

Evangeline had 5 sons all serving in Europe in WW1 and the poetry, which I value greatly, really makes you realise the anguish that Mothers especially, went through during that time. They are a very poignant reminder of what it must have been like for the families and the servicemen and women themselves.

The museum also hosted a zoom session for those who had sent in poetry to share with others. The poem that I sent is called "A Soldiers Prayer".

We visited the museum and saw the exhibition for ourselves.

***Peter Ansell***

***Please see page 12 for a picture of the exhibition:***

1. Out on the battlefield,  
     O God most high,  
 And in the trench and on the hill  
     Oh; hear our cry.  
 Where duty calls we'll go.  
 For 'tis thy will we know.  
 Our conscience tells us so;  
     For thou art nigh.

2. Father we look to thee,  
     Hold thou our hand,  
 And we will face the foe  
     At thy command;  
 We'll take our stand and fight,  
 For England and for right,  
 Trusting thy power and might  
     To save our land.

3. O hasten Lord the time  
     When war shall cease  
 And nations of the earth  
     Shall live in peace;  
 And we and all mankind,  
 In faith and love combined,  
 With cheerful hearts combined may find  
     Peace perfect peace.

***Written by Peter Ansell's Great Grandmother, Evangeline Large between 1914 & 1918***

*Produced by the Circuit Prayer Resource Group*

## Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Prayers December 2021 to February 2022

### **Evangelism**

As far as we are able, with God's help:

We will speak of the love of God.

We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.

We will share our faith with others.

(from Methodist Way of Life)

Heavenly Father, help us to follow Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life so that your glory is shown in the world.

May your Holy Spirit inspire the churches of our circuit as we seek to bring our Mission Action Plans to life, to the praise of your name.

Amen.

People are hurting, Jesus, and you are the Wounded Healer.

People are fearful, Lord, and you say, 'Do not be afraid.'

People are stressed and anxious, and you say, 'Come to me and I will give you rest.'

All around us, people need to know you. They need *you*.

Help us who know you, and yet who are also fearful and anxious, to trust you, to listen to you, and to see others with eyes wide open.

Give us courage and compassion to speak of your love.

May your Spirit enable us to live in a way that draws others to you.

Help us to share our faith with others.

We pray in your name,

Amen.

### **Nativity Activities – a Puzzle and Colouring Book, by Martin Young, 10Publishing, £2.99**

A festive fun activity book for young children, packed with mazes, spot-the-difference, drawings to copy, colouring pages, word puzzles and lots more.

Published by Trinity Methodist Church; 'Registered Charity number 1128299'

Holy Spirit, living flame of God's presence,  
you broke the bonds of race and nation,  
enabled your friends to communicate the good news in a fresh  
way.

You converted souls, emptied pockets and enabled all things to be  
made new.

Fire of God, do it again today and start with me.

Amen

*John Carne*

Prayer from the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2008-9



Photo by [Kelly Sikkema](#) on [Unsplash](#)

### **A prayer as we Dwell in the Word**

Loving God,  
Although our destination is not yet clear,  
May we trust in your graceful promises;  
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,  
May we be rooted in your loving regard;  
Though our attention is inclined to wander,  
May we hear the things you are saying;  
Though we often neglect your influence,  
May we be convicted of your power to change,  
In Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

### **A Pirate Christmas Activity Book, by Suzy Senior, Bible Society, £3**

Here is an activity book, full of crafts and games based on Suzy Senior's popular children's book. It may help children aged two to five to feel immersed in the Christmas story, using stickers. They can make their own guinea pig, draw a treasure map and cook party treats to get into the pirate Christmas spirit!

Dwelling in the Word text: Matthew 5: 2-16 (NRSV)

### **The Beatitudes**

<sup>2</sup> Then Jesus began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely<sup>[b]</sup> on my account.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### **Salt and Light**

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

<sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

## **It Begins in Bethlehem – A Nativity Rhyme for Christmas time by Bob Hartman and Mark Beech, 10Publishing, £2**

This new Christmas children's booklet offers a fresh perspective on the nativity, with glorious rhymes from Bob Hartman and lively illustrations by Mark Beech. It could be helpful when sharing the message of Christmas with children in your family, church and community.

Gracious God,  
 Thank you for your extraordinary love shown to us in Jesus.  
 Help us to live each moment of each day in gratitude,  
 loving those around us and witnessing to the ways of your  
 kingdom.  
 Refresh us continually in the power of the Holy Spirit to be people  
 of the Way.  
 Amen.

Prayer from the booklet *Finding the Way* (Methodist Way of Life)

Today, Lord, open my eyes  
 that I might see your image in everyone I meet;  
 Today, Lord, open my ears  
 that I might hear your word in the words that others speak;  
 Today, Lord, open my mouth  
 that I might speak your gracious word of love  
 to those whose paths I cross;  
 Today, Lord, open my heart, my mind and my whole being,  
 that I might be filled with your Spirit and so serve you,  
 more truly your disciple, in this, your world.  
 For Jesus' sake. Amen

*James Booth*

(A former Circuit Superintendent in Reading & Silchester)

Prayer from the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2008-9

### **A Suggestion for a creative way of praying:-**

*Walking prayer* - when walking, take notice of people and places around, and pray for them as you walk.



## **New bank**

Mother decided that ten-year old Cathy should get something 'practical' for Christmas. "Suppose we open a savings account for you?" she suggested. Cathy was delighted. "It's your account, darling," mother said as they arrived at the bank, "so you fill out the application." Cathy was doing fine until she came to the space for 'Name of your former bank.' After a slight hesitation, she put down 'Piggy'.



## Voice Care as we Return to Singing



“Help! I’ve forgotten what it’s like to sing! How can I care for my voice?”

During the pandemic, many of us have found that singing alongside one another is something we’ve really missed. As we begin to re-gather as worshipping congregations, it is wonderful to sing together once again. Equally, we may find that our voices are somewhat out of practice. They may crack more easily or become hoarse. We may not be able to hit the notes we thought we could. For some, this can be alarming.

As Methodists, we are used to approaching corporate song with the same vigour and enthusiasm we might use to run up a flight of stairs. As we begin singing together again, we shouldn’t be surprised if we need to *walk* the stairs for a time and should approach even that with care and an acknowledgement of our need to get back to full condition. Without this awareness, we may become demoralised. But with gentle persuasion and care – and a few helpful exercises – our voices can re-find the strength they had before.

Here are a few tips to help us get our voices back in training.

1. **Warm up.** Why not gently hum your favourite hymn or song quietly on the way to church? Alternatively, making a ‘huh’ sound (as if steaming up a window to draw on with your fingers) will encourage warm, moist air to envelop your vocal cords.
2. **Breathing.** Practise deep and centred breathing to relax your voice. (Centred breathing is explained [here](#), where it is also recommended for easing stress.)
3. **Drink lots of water.** Everyone says we need to keep drinking water but staying hydrated is really important for our voices.
4. **Sing little and often.** You could sing a hymn or song every day to help you get back into practice, and maybe intentionally make it one point of worship within the day.
5. **Not too loud!** We can put more pressure on our voices by singing loudly, and so singing more quietly may help us build up our voices once again. Try holding up your hand as if covering a yawn, and sing, minimising the amount of breath that is felt on your hand.
6. **Take a break.** Once you’ve sung, it might be helpful to rest your voice and have a quiet hour or so without talking. This is especially true if your voice sounds hoarse. If the hoarseness persists, seek medical help.
7. **Don’t be afraid to stop.** However hard that might be with others singing all around, it may prevent any longer-term issues occurring.
8. **Be patient!** Much as we love to sing, we need to train our voices and give them time to build up again.

Rob Newton, Chris Preece, Jonathan Robinson and Gauri Taylor-Nayar  
on behalf of the Singing the Faith Reference Group

Taken from:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/23564/voice-care-returning-to-congregational-singing.pdf>.

## EVERYTHING FALLS AWAY

*There's a thread you follow.  
It goes among things that change.  
But it doesn't change.*

- William Stafford

\* \* \* \* \*

Sooner or later, everything falls away. You, the work you've done, your successes, large and small, your failures, too. Those moments when you were light, alongside the times you became one with the night. The friends, the people you loved who loved you, those who might have wished you ill, none of this is forever. All of it is soon to go, or going, or long gone.

Everything falls away, except the thread you've followed, unknowing, all along. The thread that strings together all

you've been and done, the thread you didn't know you were tracking until, toward the end, you see that the thread is what stays as everything else falls away.

Follow that thread as far as you can and you'll find that it does not end, but weaves into the unimaginable vastness of life. Your life never was the solo turn it seemed to be. It was always part of the great weave of nature and humanity, an immensity we come to know only as we follow our own small threads to the place where they merge with the boundless whole.

Each of our threads runs its course, then joins in life together. This magnificent tapestry - this masterpiece in which we live forever.

*Parker J Palmer (sent in by Michael Parker)*

### Coming for a short time only to your Church

This is a short time offer for you to get rid of any spectacles that are no longer in use in yours or your friends' homes. Until the **end of December** only, I will collect any old glasses you have and hand them in for recycling at a local store or charity.

Don't miss this chance to reduce your clutter and help others at the same time. When you bring them to Church please hand them over to me. Happy hunting.

**Jennifer Pitt**



### **Three boys were bragging about the jobs their fathers had**

"My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it poetry and people give him £50 for it," said the first. "That's nothing," said the second boy. "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song and gets £100." "I can do better than both of you," smiled the third boy. "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes six people to collect the money."

A young boy discovered a Bible in the attic, opened it and found a large leaf pressed between the pages of Genesis. "Oh, look," he said, "Adam's left his clothes here."



## ***What has domestic insulation got to do with Church?***

You may be surprised to see an article about Domestic Insulation in a Church Magazine. I supposed I should start by explaining that! As Christians, we believe that the world is God's creation, and so we should be concerned about it and care for it. The Climate Crisis has been in the news a lot over the past month or two because of the COP 26 meeting and the incontrovertible evidence that Global Warming is the result of human activity, particularly our dependence on fossil fuels. COP 26 achieved quite a lot in terms of government agreements to curtail some of that human activity, maybe not as much as many hoped, but nevertheless a substantial set of agreements.

If our government is to curtail carbon emissions in the UK, there are few ways that it can do that, other than wielding a big stick and mandating change on everybody's part. However, as individuals there are things that we can do, and by doing those things early we can probably make them less painful than the government stick.

While there are a number of areas that we might make changes, domestic insulation is probably one of the best places to start. That's because improvements here will help the climate, will reduce your heating bills, and may make your home more comfortable, all at the same time.

So what can be done? Here are some suggestions:

- If you have a loft above your home, current practice suggests that there should be 10" (250mm) of loft insulation. That is a standard that has progressively increased over the past few decades, so many houses will not have as much as this, and could be improved.
- The heat characteristics of double glazing have also improved dramatically over the past ten or twenty years. Replacing the window panes, or better still replacing the window frames completely, will make a big difference.
- Many older houses have wooden floors, and the space underneath must be ventilated thereby making the floor cold. Such floors can have insulation installed under the floor, but only by lifting the floorboard.

I can imagine you're thinking that those are expensive measures and potentially very disruptive to the house, and you're right. So here are also some simpler, cheaper measures that you might take instead:

- Fit heavy curtains over the windows, and make sure they are closed when it's dark.
- If you have a draught around the base of a door, make or buy a "sausage" to reduce the draught when you're inside.
- If you have a draughty letterbox, get a brush cover fitted over the inside.
- If you have rooms in your home that are not in regular use, turn the heating down in them, and keep the internal doors closed.
- If you have very draughty windows, or ones that suffer very badly from condensation, there is plastic film that can be applied right across the frame to reduce the draughts.

Will you notice the difference in your energy bills by doing these things? Probably not. However, you will know that you are doing your bit to care for God's world, and to reduce the potential impact of climate change.

**Tony Pitt**

## Blister Pack Recycling

Many thanks to all of you donating your empty pill packs and to those who are collecting them from others too. I am overwhelmed at how many have appeared for me to recycle. It makes me realise how many went into land fill before we started collecting them.



I have now taken 12 very full “bags for life“ of tablet packs into Superdrug. I can fill their recycling box with one visit! I am sure that the help that Marie Curie is getting from these is welcomed and of course it is helping to take care of the planet for future generations.

Please continue to leave them at church for me to collect, in the **white labelled bin provided, which can be found in the foyer area at church.** However I would be happy to collect locally if you are unable to get to church.

**Jennifer Pitt**

## Recycling of Plastic Milk Bottle Tops –

If you have plastic milk bottle tops (*only milk bottle tops*) and are not already recycling them and would like to, Pamela has a contact with a collector for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Tops can be given to Pamela or ring the Bishop family on ☎: 01256 467702.

Thank you, **June Bishop**

## Trinity Collections

As you will expect, Trinity’s income has been severely reduced over the past six months. This is partly because hirers have had to stop meeting, but also because without services in Church the collections have stopped. Nevertheless, much of our expenditure has continued – almost half of our outgoings go to the Circuit to pay for, among other things but to a major extent, the Circuit staff, both ordained and lay.



We would like to express our thanks to those who contribute by Standing Order, and those who have made contact to continue their regular giving via monthly envelopes. We would like to remind you all that there are a number of ways that you can contribute financially to God’s work at Trinity and we would particularly welcome any donations at this time.

If you need more information as to how you can give to Trinity, please contact:

**David Gunton** (Treasurer) – [david@gunton.org](mailto:david@gunton.org) or 01256-352342 or

**Tony Pitt** (Gift Aid & Envelope Secretary) – [organista@btinternet.com](mailto:organista@btinternet.com) or ☎: 01256-816314

All men who live with any degree of serenity, live by some assurance of grace –  
*Reinhold Niebuhr*



## COVID 19 UPDATE:

### UPDATE Foodbank



#### **BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK CONTINUES TO DELIVER DIRECTLY TO HOMES THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Our foodbank relies on Your Goodwill & Support. Monetary Donations big or small are also gratefully received.** Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in **The Trussell Trust** network is donated by the public – that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

Our Basingstoke Centre remains open for donations of **food & toiletries including fresh veg, bread & eggs** during our regular opening times which are from 10 am – 3 pm, Monday to Friday. Due to the risk of Covid, we need to reduce the numbers of visitors to Basingstoke Foodbank's warehouse to protect both yourselves, and our volunteers. If you would like to donate any items, please **'shop and drop'** goods into the permanent crates provided for us by our supporting supermarkets, or at any of the other donation points. We still have donation points around the region, find your nearest collection point below.

**THANK YOU** for your continued support!

**Check out the Foodbank Website at: <https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> Also on their Website**, you will find the list of locations & times where you can donate food. **Alternatively** – look back at previous Trinity E-News for this information.

**Basingstoke Foodbank:** We heard recently, the good news that the new premises at Houndmills have been secured for the next two years. The Foodbank has been able to purchase a large commercial refrigerator, which means we can now store fresh fruit and vegetables, and are now able to provide fresh bread, eggs, fruit and veg in every food parcel. The address can be found in previous newsletters, postcode is: RG21 6XG. At present there is no process in place for transfer of donations from Trinity to the new site, **please do not leave donations at Trinity**. Thanks, **Tony Pitt**

#### **At 27.11.21, we are SHORT OF:**

- Dried Milk Powder
- Coffee (small jars)
- Instant Mash
- Savoury Spreads
- Tinned Meat (Hot, not Ham, Corned Beef etc)
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned tomatoes
- Meat substitute
- Desserts & Puddings (Microwave)
- Toilet Rolls
- Washing Up Liquid

#### **We have Plenty of:**

- Cereals Hot & Cold
- Porridge Sachets
- Baked Beans
- Biscuits
- Rice
- **NO Pasta (we have sufficient for a year)**
- Soup
- Crisps
- Squash
- Tea, Fruit Teas
- Cat & Dog Food

**Thank you for your continued support**

#### **We always welcome Donations**

& promise to use them to provide help for local people in crisis. Occasionally we send food to other local foodbanks to support their work if they have specific shortages.

We also support a small number of local agencies in Basingstoke who regularly provide hot meals, or emergency food items for our most vulnerable members of the community who may not be able to access our centre.

## RECYCLING UPDATE

### WE STILL NEED YOUR RECYCLING!



The recycling is going well and at the end of October I redeemed £90 from TerraCycle. We have now raised just over £1,000 with this scheme. The biggest collection is nearly always the crisp packets, which is not surprising since it is quicker to eat a bag of crisps compared to a packet of biscuits! I need a minimum of 8kg of crisp wrappers before I can send them off and I usually manage to send in a shipment every month. Biscuit wrappers tend to take slightly longer even though I only need 5kg. The collection of baby food pouches and kids' yoghurt pouches was slow to begin with but is picking up now although it takes several hundred to comply with the minimum weight of 8kg. Keep them coming!

The slowest collection is the Air and home collection so we really could do with boosting this. Do you get your dishwasher tablets or detergent in those flexible packaging bags?

How about the packaging of household wipes like Flash or the anti-bacterial ones? If so, pop them in the bin and we can recycle them. Other items like plastic air fresheners, tinted fabric conditioner bottles or the tinted boxes, even used tumble dryer softener sheets can all be recycled. If in doubt just ask me or check the labels on the bins.



Many thanks for all your support, **Hazel Green**, [malandhazel@hotmail.com](mailto:malandhazel@hotmail.com) ☎: 07776 442529

### Christmas Rush

That time again, my trolley's full  
Buying all the Christmas fare,  
A turkey crown, a rib of beef,  
Crisps and nibbles, lots to spare.

Christmas crackers and serviettes,  
Paper for wrapping and  
cards to send,  
Nuts and oranges, figs and dates,  
the list goes on,  
there seems no end.

In all this rush it's good to pause  
And think about that special Day,  
When shepherds watched and  
angels sang  
As a Baby lay in a bed of hay.

by **Megan Carter, Parish Pump**

**Loving, Almighty God**, thank you that You came into the darkness of this broken world on that first Christmas night, pouring in your Light, in the person of your Son, Jesus. Lord, so much of our world seems dark, still. So many dreadful things we can't make sense of: the on-going pandemic, acts of violence and injustice against good people – innocent people, child poverty, employment problems, broken relationships ... so many difficulties. It's easy to feel overwhelmed.

Lord, help us to focus on you this Christmas. Open our eyes to see your bigger, eternal picture. Help us to hear afresh the Good News that nothing and no-one can ever extinguish your Light.

Jesus overcame the troubles of the world by His death and resurrection. Father may we re-connect with you, through Jesus, this Christmas and know the Love, the Joy and the Peace, which are your Christmas gifts to us, as we trust Him.

We pray in Jesus' wonderful name, Amen.

by **Daphne Kitching, Parish Pump**

# Share the joy of Christmas

Basingstoke  
foodbank



## Make a Christmas Hamper for a local individual or family in need

Just cover a cardboard box with Christmas paper and fill it with all of the things that make Christmas special:

- Cake, ideally Christmas or yule log
- Pudding, ideally Christmas or a chocolate version
- Box mince pies, apple pies, etc
- Box of chocolates
- Box or nice packet of biscuits
- Hot drink, eg coffee, tea, hot chocolate
- Tinned meat, eg ham, chicken, mince, pork
- Tinned tuna
- Cooking sauce, eg curry sauce, pasta sauce
- Packet of seasonal, dried stuffing
- Tinned fruit
- Custard
- A nice jar of jam and/or pickle
- Toiletries
- Christmas Crackers



*"Thank you so much you don't know how much this helps me. It's very unexpected. Bless you for your kindness".*

*"I cannot tell how grateful we are for this. Thank you to everyone involved. "*

**We would also welcome contributions of food items for hampers.**

Please bring your hamper or food items to us at:

- Festival Place (Upper Floor beside Next): 9am and 6pm on Monday to Saturday from 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December,
- Basingstoke Foodbank, Tempus House (RG21 6XG): 10am-3pm on Monday to Friday from 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December

Contact details for Basingstoke Foodbank Christmas hampers are:

Email: [Abigail@comptonburnett.com](mailto:Abigail@comptonburnett.com)

Telephone: 07747-111336

Website: <https://www.thebesominbasingstoke.org/foodbankhampers>

**Nigel writes:** "At Christmas we will listen to many familiar Bible passages. The story of the shepherds, the wise men, the angels singing Glory to God in the heavens. They are all so familiar to us, but we mustn't let that familiarity lead us into the error of disregarding their message. Of all these passages, none are more important than those first few verses of the Gospel of St John, which will form the climax of the services of lessons and carols."

### The Word of Light

The Word was in the beginning, The Word was with the Lord;  
When the worlds were set to spinning by that same Almighty Word.

Not a thing that was created was made without His will,  
And His pow'r has permeated our world, and does so still.

In Him was life, and light eternal, to all men He gives His light;  
Shining in the gloom nocturnal, shines like day within the night!

And to men in sinful starkness, The Word in glory comes –  
And the deep surrounding darkness to the Word of Light succumbs!

Though by Him the world was moulded when He came unto His own,  
Yet mankind, in sin enfolded, their Creator they disowned.

But for those who do believe Him – who see that He is right –  
He makes those who do receive Him into Children of the Light!

by Nigel Beeton, Parish Pump

**Children's  
Books**

**Shoemakers Environment**  
CHRISTIAN BOOKS & COFFEE SHOP

Open Tuesdays – Saturdays – 9.30 am – 4 pm

*Our Coffee Shop: is OPEN again, 3 mornings a week (see below)*

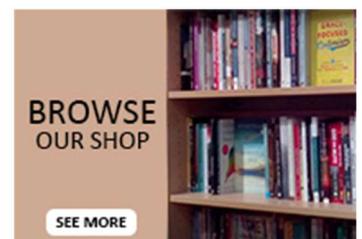
**Church Bibles & And Bible Gifts & Kids  
Supplies Books More Notes Cards Corner**

**Shoemakers Christian Bookshop, Newbury:**

**New Website for Shoemakers Bookshop:** [www.christophershoemaker.org.uk](http://www.christophershoemaker.org.uk) **Message from Shoemakers:** We are very excited to announce that our new website has arrived. Our great new website is bigger and better than before. It is specifically designed to be more user-friendly, making it easier to find what you want and to place your orders.

**Shop with Shoemakers – Our Shop is now OPEN.** You can shop with us in the following ways:

- in person at our Shop, **OPEN** once more.
- online anytime at: [www.christophershoemaker.org.uk](http://www.christophershoemaker.org.uk)
- by phone during opening hours (Tuesdays – Saturdays: 9:30 am – 4 pm) on: ☎:01635 37836
- by email anytime – [office@christophershoemaker.org.uk](mailto:office@christophershoemaker.org.uk)
- facebook messenger – visit us at: [www.facebook.com/shoemakersbooks](http://www.facebook.com/shoemakersbooks)
- click and collect is available.
- **Our Coffee Shop is OPEN** again for drinks, cakes & biscuits  
Three mornings a week, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from  
9.30 am – 1 pm.
- orders can be posted or delivered to you.
- please support your local Christian bookshop and have a look  
at the great resources we have at Shoemakers.
- Shoemakers Christian Books – ([christophershoemaker.org.uk](http://christophershoemaker.org.uk))



**And may Romans 8:37-39 encourage us all**

For the Young & not so Young

PUZZLES

Crossword

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew 2: 1-10

Around the time of Jesus' birth, in a land far to the east of Israel, there were men who studied the stars...

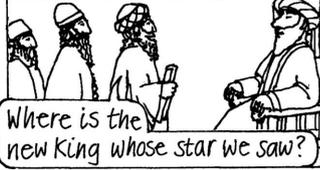
When they saw a new star they believed it showed a special King had been born.



They set off to see that King.



They reached Jerusalem, the home of King Herod.



Where is the new King whose star we saw?

The Romans had made Herod king of the Jews about 30 years earlier. He was ruthless.



The Jews hated him and he was always worried that people were plotting against him.



He had them killed even if they were his wife or children...



So what the wise men said about a new King upset Herod



and that made everyone else afraid.

Herod got the teachers and priests together and asked about the king's birthplace.



That would be Little Bethlehem



\*Micah 5:2

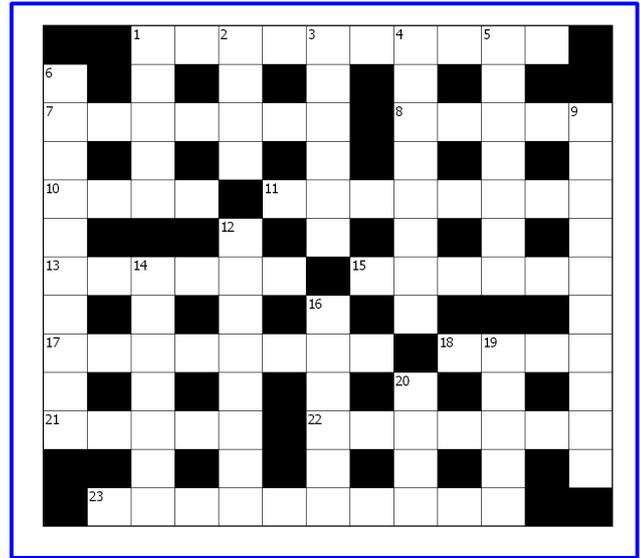
Herod secretly met the wise men and asked when they had first seen the star.



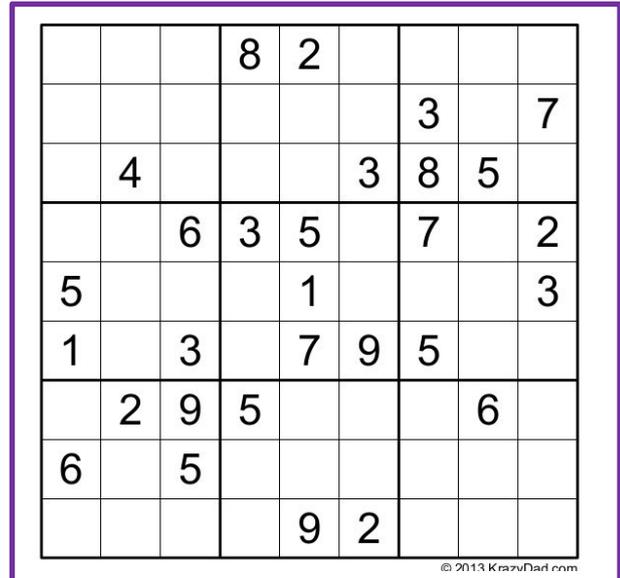
Go to Bethlehem and look for the child. When you find him let me know so I can come and worship him.



As they left Jerusalem the wise men were elated to see the guiding star again.



Sudoku



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Wordsearch for December

Jesus was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

- |           |        |          |
|-----------|--------|----------|
| Messiah   | Crown  | Seen     |
| Broken    | Beauty | Father   |
| Heart     | Ashes  | Whoever  |
| Freedom   | Son    | Longing  |
| Darkness  | God    | Thousand |
| Favour    | Jesus  | Comfort  |
| Prisoners | Mourn  | Bestow   |

*I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.*

**Mouse Makes**  
Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

**What's on the Christmas Tree?**

**A STAR** shows the way to Jesus  
Read Matthew 2:1-12

**ANGELS** bring messages from God  
Read about Gabriel's message in Luke 1:26-38  
Read the shepherd's story in Luke 1:26-38

**LIGHTS AND CANDLES** remind us that Jesus lights our way to God  
Read Luke 2:29-32

**PRESENTS** remind us of God's special gift to us ... **JESUS!**

Presents at Christmas under the tree,  
A red Christmas stocking waiting for me,  
But what really is Christmas,  
What is it about?  
Just look and the Bible and you will find out!  
It's about **JESUS** - the best present of all,  
**JESUS** our Saviour,  
God's gift to us all!

"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16

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**Crossword Clues for December**

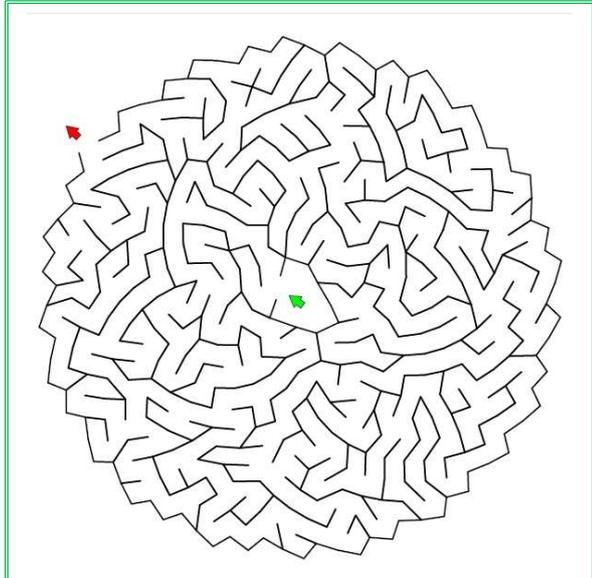
**Across**

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14ñ15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith \_\_\_\_ (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

**Crossword Clues for December**

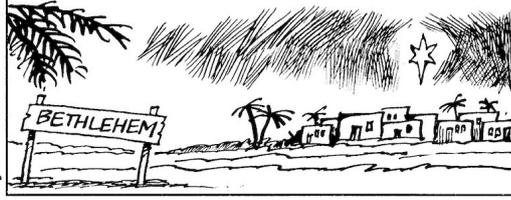
**Down**

- 1 '\_\_\_\_\_ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as \_\_\_\_ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19ñ20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living \_\_\_\_\_, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will \_\_\_\_ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)



# A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.

...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS

ROMAN CENSUS

GO TO YOUR HOME TOWN TO BE COUNTED

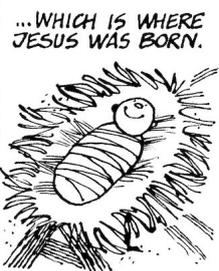
MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.

SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY

THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.

THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...

...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

## Puzzle Pages Solutions

**ACROSS:** 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

**DOWN:** 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

## Sudoku Solution

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

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



upset	Jerusalem	birthplace	priests	little	Jesus
hated	plotting	worship	new	born	child
King	Bethlehem	teachers	Herod	wise	star
killed	guiding	secretly	Jews	elated	afraid