



St Andrew's & Trinity E-News



Issue 06 / 24 Trinity's email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net July & Aug 2024

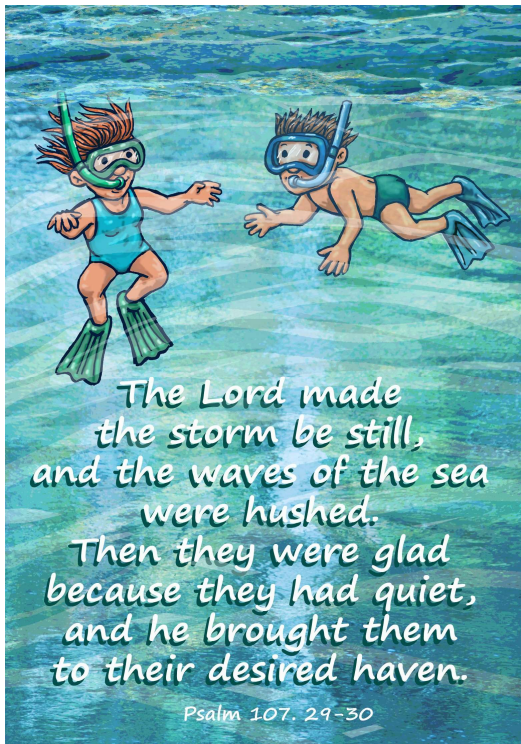


Our Minister is:
Revd Claire Simpson

☎: 01256 323103

email:
revclaire72@btinternet.com

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



The Lord made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Then they were glad because they had quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.

Psalms 107. 29-30

'The God of love'

The God of love my Shepherd is,
And He that doth me feed:
While He is mine,
and I am His,
What can I want or need?
from a poem by George Herbert

Trinity E-News:

Deadline: Sept 24 Issue: Sun 18 Aug 24

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

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

Thank you, Hazel, Ed

(☎: 01256-461375) email:

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16B Portacre Rise, B/Stoke, RG218YQ

Link: **Circuit Website:**

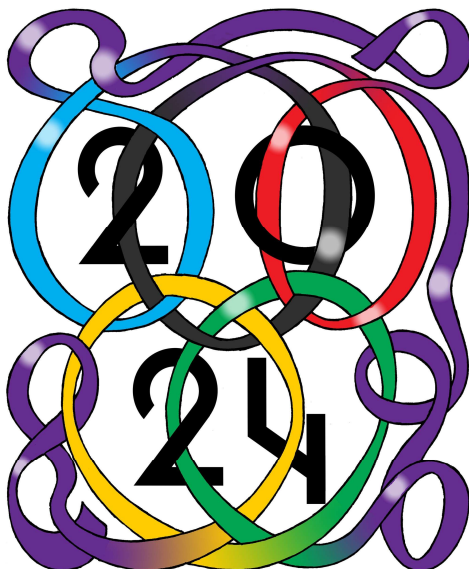
www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

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July & August 2024

Dear friends,

And so we are in the summer months with hopefully some opportunity to holiday and to spend time resting and relaxing, either on our own or in the company of family and friends. We might even get some nice weather too!

I wonder if you find it easy to take some time out and rest? Or are you what might be described as a workaholic? Maybe you are in a position, such as a full-time caring role for someone close to you or juggling lots of different calls on your time, where you would like to have a break but it just isn't possible. That can be really hard but I know it is the reality for some folk. Similarly, life can feel relentless for a lot of people in difficult and testing situations and so taking some time to relax feels very challenging, if not impossible.

Having said all that, taking 'time out' to rest, recharge and refresh ourselves is really important in today's fast and furious world. We know that 'burn out' is a reality for a lot of people and so to counter this, opportunities to rest and relax from the business and busyness of life are good for our overall wellbeing and health.

I celebrate that God created so much for us to enjoy in our beautiful world. I'm also interested that at the end of the creation story that we have at the start of the Bible in the book of Genesis, God deliberately chose to rest! He rested after all the work of creation. So special was this rest that God hallowed it - he made it holy and gave it honour.

So that might encourage us, give us permission even (if we feel we need it), to take some time out ourselves. It may be that we can't manage a holiday or even a whole day of rest, but just to take a few moments in each day to be 'still' and relax. For some people it's mindfulness or gentle exercise; or listening to birds in the garden

with a morning cup of coffee; or prayer and meditation; or it might be doing something creative. All of these things might be all it needs to recharge and refresh us for what lies ahead.

I hope that summer brings opportunities for all of us to enjoy,

Blessings,

Claire

Sunday Car Parking

I am looking into the problem of parking at the church for Sunday Worship.

Most roads adjacent to the church do not have yellow lines.

For those who are severely affected I have a solution so please see me personally.

Bob Lock

pixabay



SUNDAY 25th AUGUST, 10.30am

'Favourite HYMN SUNDAY'

If you would like us to join in singing your favourite Hymn or listen to your favourite reading / poem please write them down on the piece of paper and put them in the box provided.

Please add your name and tick if you would like to tell us why you chose the hymn, poem, reading and a preferred tune if choosing a hymn.

We cannot guarantee everyone's will be used, it depends on the time but rest assured if not chosen this time they will be held over for the next such service.

Thanks, Bob



REFLECTION ON 'CHANGE'

In our world nothing stays the same:
governments come and go;
wars are fought and peace treaties signed;
rains fall on drought-stricken lands;
the earth-quakes, the rivers flood.
In the midst of change, the unchanging God is at work in
His world,
and we have reason for hope and joy.

In the church nothing stays the same:
ways of worship come and go;
beliefs are challenged by new ways of thinking;
the Spirit constantly renews God's people;
we learn to live and share with one another.
In the midst of change, the unchanging God is at work in
His church
And we have reason for hope and joy.

In our lives nothing stays the same:
happiness comes and goes
we experience and learn and grow;
unexpected events alter everything;
we suffer illness and loss.
In the midst of change, the unchanging God is at work in us,
And we have reason for hope and joy.

Written by Anne Rowe

Anne said that someone wrote: *'the more things change, the more they stay the same'*.

Cream Teas at Silchester Methodist Church

Come along to
Silchester for a
Cream Tea – if
weather allows
take your tea into
the garden.

We will be open
Every Sunday
***afternoon in June
& July from 3 pm
until 5 pm.***

Donations
will be for
Church
funds.



- *65 years ago, on 25 July 1959 the first hovercraft crossed the English Channel.*

The SRN-1 had been designed by a British inventor, Christopher Cockerell.



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



And a **Thankyou** to all the folk who provide drinks for us after morning worship each Sunday, and also our thanks to the volunteers who man the 'Mug & Biscuit' on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays each week, serving coffees, teas, cakes and light lunches. (More Volunteers are always welcome for Sundays or weekdays).

Prayer Request Book

A '**Prayer Request**' Book is now available each Sunday and prayers will be included in the 'Intercessions'. Please ensure that you have the permission of the person you would like to be prayed for. **Diane Bath**





Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

**Sunday Worship at St Andrew's & Trinity
and our Basingstoke Churches –
Plan for Worship: June, July & August 24**



Enquiries – Joint Senior Stewards:

Diane Bath ☎: 01256 320429 or email diane bath51@gmail.com

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Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Plan, July 2024 (B/Stoke Churches)

Dates	7 July	14 July	21 July	28 July
Trinity & St Andrew's 10.30 am	Rev Jenny Dowding, S	Rev Martin Beukes	Rev Claire Simpson	Mrs Sarah Whithorn
Church of L Stream 10.30 am	LA	Nick Klingaman	Stephen Appiah	Peter Frank
Oakley 10.30 am	Rev Dr Ruth Midcalf	Neil Graham	Rev Barbara McIntivey	Rev C Simpson, S
Oakridge 10.30 am	Rev David Jenkins	Rev Claire Simpson, S	Tony Bell	Stephen Appiah
Old Basing 10.30 am	Symon Turner	Stephen Appiah	LA	Rev J Dowding

Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Plan, August 2024 (B/Stoke Churches)

Dates	4 August	11 August	18 August	25 August
Trinity & St Andrew's 10.30 am	Rev Claire Simpson, S	Mrs Anne Rowe	Rev Barbara McIntivey	LA
Church of L Stream 10.30 am	LA	John Smith	David Munns	Rev Claire Simpson
Oakley 10.30 am	LA	Symon Turner	Rev J Dowding, S	Chris Marsh
Oakridge 10.30 am	Mrs P Jose	Rev Claire Simpson, S	Neil Graham	LA
Old Basing 10.30 am	Chris Marsh	Terry Rowell	Rev Claire Simpson, S	LA

New Circuit

The NEW Circuit: We are changing to the '**Berkshire Hampshire Borders Circuit**'. There is a second '**Meet & Greet**' at Tilehurst Methodist Church on **Sunday 14 July, 4 pm – 5.30 pm**. An informal time of worship, food and getting to know one another. (*Lee's top tip – please research parking before you attend!*) (*taken from Circuit News*).

Offertory

The offertory has always been a part of worship and our gifts of money are an important part of the church's income. Many of us give our contributions by standing order and however we give, all our financial gifts are gratefully received.

The offertory is, however, not only about putting money into the bag. It is a time when we can respond in worship by offering to God the time and talents we all have and use in the life of the church and circuit.

Church Council have voted to accept the proposal from the Worship Group that we start to use an offertory token. This small card will represent all that we offer to God, whether it is our money, time, prayers or talents.

From the beginning of June, a token can be collected as you arrive at church and put into the offertory bag as it comes round. This can be done whether or not you give with cash, and is a symbol of all that you are offering to God.

'Everything we have has come from You,
and we give You only what You first gave us.'

1 Chronicles 29:14

Ann Walker, Worship Group

Watching and Waiting

God of the everyday

There is so much going on around us,

Do we fail to see at all?

Amid the day-to-day chaos

Do we miss the oasis of calm that
is provided?

Life giving

Life changing.

Do we see?

Do we wait?

Do we see when our waiting is over or

Do we keep on waiting and not see?

by Jennifer Pitt



Shed Project Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Stornoway's 'Shed Project' has celebrated a decade of making a difference to its island community. In those 10 years, the Shed has expanded the services it offers to people of all ages on the Isle of Lewis. These include drop-in facilities for local youngsters, a safe space for adults recovering from drug or alcohol addiction, as well as mentoring and support for primary and secondary pupils, **PP**

'The New Singing Group'



We have some more dates for your diaries - we're meeting next:

on: Monday 15 July from 11 am - 12 noon

Monday 29 July from 11 am - 12 noon

and possibly on: Monday 12 August from 11 am - 12 noon

and on: Monday 26 August from 11 am - 12 noon

'August' Dates are provisional and to be confirmed

Do come along and join us - 'everyone' is very welcome' - 'The More the Merrier'. We look forward to seeing you. A few more men would be very welcome, so 'Bob, Nigel & Michael don't feel outnumbered'!

If you would like more information, have a word with Peggy.

Canon Paul Hardingham looks forward to Paris...(PP)

The Olympic Games



This month sees the start of the Olympic Games in Paris. In describing the Christian life as a marathon race, the writer of Hebrews (12:1-2) challenges us to finish well.

'throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles' (1)

As in a normal race, we have to get rid of any burdens that weigh us down (eg possessions, worries, what others think of us) and besetting sins (wrong habits or attitudes). We can cast our burdens on the Lord (Ps 55:22) and be assured of His forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

'run with perseverance the race marked out for us' (1)

The Christian life is like a marathon not a sprint race, which calls for endurance. The course is *marked out* for us, as we all have a unique race to run, with its opportunities and difficulties. God knows our path and will provide all that we need to complete the race.

'fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (2)

The runner keeps their focus on the finishing line and avoids all distractions. Our focus is on Jesus, who has run the race before us (*'author'*), but is the one who can show us how to finish well (*'perfecter'*).

We are also surrounded by a 'great cloud of witnesses' (1)

These are God's people, both past and present, who are cheering us on! During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the 400 metres semi-finals. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore, and he fell to the ground in pain. However, his father ran on to the track to support him in completing the race. Let's not forget that whatever we face, God is there beside to enable us to finish the race!

- 125 years ago, on 1 July 1899 the Gideons International was founded. The evangelical Christian association places free Bibles in hotel rooms, hospitals, schools, military bases and prisons around the world.



Church of the Living Stream flows on

Just a year ago many of you attended a celebratory service to mark the end of 111 years of local witness by Kempshott Methodist Church. The congregation had taken the bold decision to focus on on-line worship and to make the world its parish.

I am happy to report that this venture has achieved much more than we were achieving latterly in our building. We have two regular weekly on-line events, each at 10.30 am in the morning. Sunday offers a brief interactive service with opportunities for congregational contributions and discussion. Hymns are supported by thought-provoking images and those who wish to sing can join in, as long as they mute themselves to avoid confusing Zoom with unwanted feedback.

Wednesday mornings are more informal and are based on three hymns following a particular theme. Different individuals read individual verses and people feel free to share experiences and ideas. There is a prayer time in which individuals and current causes of concern can be brought before God. It is a time of warmth and fellowship.

Our participants come from a wide area including, on occasion, Zambia and the United States. We have individuals who have discovered us on-line and have become regular members of our fellowship. These are based in St Albans, Liverpool and Uckfield, Sussex.

In addition we have a website where prayer requests can be placed. Prayers can be posted on this site and our Minister has provided interesting U-tube messages.

We meet in person once a month for a home communion led by Claire and we make use of the HT 2000 to support our singing. This attracts those of our fellowship who have not made the leap to on-line worship, but remain a valued part of our fellowship.

Our intention was never to poach people from other circuit churches, but to offer a different approach for those who are house-bound, not feeling up to attending church on a particular Sunday, or travelling away from Basingstoke. People who have moved away from here remain with us on-line.

Our building has proved useful in the last year in providing a venue for a thriving dance school which was evicted from Westside Community Centre because of the problems with crumbling concrete. It looks as if it might be taken over by a different Christian Community which will offer an alternative approach to worship.

As we move into our second year we look forward to making our presence felt in the larger community which will be the new circuit.

You can find our website at www.churchlivingstream.co.uk

Charmian Harrison, Pam Guy

Planted in the love of the Father

Planted in the love of the Father
You can grow, dear one,
You can grow.

Watered by the spring of the Spirit
His fruit you'll show,
His fruit you'll show.

And when the sun scorches,
And the thorns threaten,
And the storms around life's garden blow
– Your roots will hold,
And hold secure,
Because you're planted in the love of the
Father,

by Daphne Kitching, PP

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

Dates	Timings	EVENTS – at St Andrew's unless stated otherwise
Weekly & Monthly Events – T/T (term-time)		
Tue, Wed, Thur <i>weekly T/T</i>	10 am – 1.30 pm	Mug & Biscuit Open for drinks, biscuits, cakes, tea-cakes, light lunches, <i>page 18</i>
Tues, <i>weekly</i>	10 am – 11.30 am	Tuesday Coffee Club, <i>page 15</i>
Wed, <i>weekly, T/T</i>	1.30 pm – 3.30 pm	Knit One, Drop One
2 nd / 4 th Fridays <i>each month</i>	12.30 pm	South Ham Churches Lunch Club, <i>St Joseph's Church page 14</i>
2 nd & 4 th Thurs, <i>each month</i>	2.30 pm – 4 pm	The Fountain Prayer Group twice monthly unless otherwise advised, <i>page 14</i>
Youth Organisations – Weekly, Mostly Term-time – abbreviated to T/T in places		
Mon, <i>weekly, term-time</i>	7 pm – 8.30 pm	1 st South Ham Guides, (10–14 yr olds), Leader: Sarah, New Members Sign Up via Girl Guides' website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus
Wed, <i>weekly, T/T</i>	4.15 – 6 pm	3 rd South Ham Rainbows, (4–7 yr olds), Lena Ponting
Wed, <i>weekly, T/T</i>	6 pm – 7.45 pm	3 rd South Ham Brownies, (7–10 yr olds), Lena Ponting
Thurs <i>weekly, T/T</i>	10 am – 11.30 am	Playtime U5 Group, Contact: Theresa Strachan
Frid, <i>weekly</i>	6 pm – 10.30 pm	3 rd Boys Brigade, Captain: Theresa Strachan, <i>page 16</i>
Other Events (including events that are once a month)		
JULY		
Tues 2 July	7.30 pm	Northern Housegroup meet at Sonia's, <i>page 14</i>
Sund 7 July	2.30 pm	JAM, <i>page 14</i>
Tues 9 July	<u>2 pm</u>	Trinity Circle meet at Ann & Seve Walker's, <i>page 14</i>
Thur 11 July	2.30 pm	The Fountain Prayer Group, <i>page 14</i>
Mon 15 July	11 am	Singing Group, <i>page 6</i>
Thur 25 July	2.30 pm	The Fountain Prayer Group, <i>page 14</i>
Mon 29 July	11 am	Singing Group, <i>page 6</i>
AUGUST		
Tues 6 Aug	7.30 pm	Northern Housegroup meet at Sonia's, <i>page 14</i>
Mon 12 Aug	11 am	Singing Group <i>(To Be Confirmed)</i> , <i>page 6</i>
Tues 13 Aug	7.30 pm	Trinity Circle meet at St Andrew's, <i>page 14</i>
Mon 26 Aug	11 am	Singing Group <i>(To Be Confirmed)</i> , <i>page 6</i>
SOME CIRCUIT & DISTRICT DATES		
Sundays	3 pm – 5 pm	Cream Teas, Silchester, every Sunday, June/July, <i>p3</i>
Tues 9 & 23 July	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning at Oakley MC, <i>page 16</i>
Thur 11 July	10.30 – 3.30 pm	Methodist 'Women in Britain' District Gathering, Romsey, <i>page 21</i>
Sund 14 July	4 pm – 5.30 pm	'Meet & Greet' at Tilehurst MC, <i>page 4</i>
Tues 16 July	11.30 – 1 pm	Cameo Club at Old Basing MC, <i>page 15</i>
Sat 10 Aug	10 am – 3 pm	Retreat, Silchester MC, RG7 2NY, <i>page 17</i>
Tues 13 & 27 Aug	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning at Oakley MC, <i>page 16</i>
Tues 20 Aug	11.30 – 1 pm	Cameo Club at Old Basing MC, <i>page 15</i>

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

District Chair

The Revd Andrew de Ville

Email: chair@sdmc.org.uk

4 The Glade, Thornbury Wood, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hants, SO53 5AZ

Tel: 07935 758329

June 2024

To: Lay and Ordained Colleagues of the Southampton Methodist District

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to thank you all as I prepare to finish my time as District Chair. It has been an incredible privilege and honour to serve alongside each of you in ministry and fellowship over the last few years.

As I reflect on our shared journey, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication, commitment, and passion displayed by you all. Together, we have navigated challenges, joyfully celebrated and continually sought to spread the love and message of Christ throughout our communities.

While my time as District Chair is ending, I am confident that the spirit of collaboration and service that defines our District will continue to thrive under new leadership with Rachel and her colleagues, and we will continue to pray for all of you.

Helen and I would also like to thank you all for the very generous gift that we have received and the kind words you have shared, both at the Service of Celebration and with the many pieces of bunting that you had written on. The ability for me to do my role was only because of your unwavering support, encouragement, and partnership. It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated people, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as your District Chair.

As Helen and I move to our new appointment in the Winchester, Eastleigh & Romsey Circuit we remain grateful to the Church for allowing us to stay within the District, both for personal reasons and because we want to continue to serve the best District in the Connexion!

Thank you once again for the privilege of serving as your District Chair. May God continue to bless each of you and the important work we do together.

Every blessing,

Andrew & Helen de Ville

* * * * *

'Recycle your Used Postage Stamps'

In the box in the ***'Mug & Biscuit'***, helping ***'St Michael's Hospice'***.
Thank you, Bob L



Pete's photo

Enfolded in Love

Our thanks to Rev Angela Webb and David Webb for the June Retreat at Silchester, the theme being “Enfolded in Love”, a Day with Julian of Norwich. It was indeed a day to remember.

Julian was a theologian, mystic and anchoress of the late 14th Century and is known for the revelations she received over a period of time relating to God's Love. Her writings, yes she was a woman, are the earliest surviving English language works by a woman. In her first revelation she is shown a vision of a hazelnut in the palm of her hand (see picture). A hazelnut of itself is a small insignificant item, however at that time they were well known, and commonly used in food recipes. On asking “*What may this be?*”, she is told, “*It is all that is made*”. From this came further revelations that all things from the smallest and most inconsequential in God's Creation are made by the **Love** of God, and that all have a purpose in His Creation.

During the Retreat we were invited to take a walk out onto the adjacent Common and to take our time to look in detail at the many small items of wildlife that we would find there. This was very rewarding as we found small, unusual plants and flowers, in various stages of growth, and the insects, bugs and beetles living on and around them. There were varieties of butterflies, wasps and bees feeding on the flowers and pollinating them (see picture). I noted that the detail designs on each of the many flowers of the foxgloves were individually unique (see picture)!

We also had the pleasure of listening to the birdsongs around us in the peace of their natural environment without any distractions. There were many species that I did not recognise calling to one another, or simply taking pleasure in their songs. We were fortunate that one of our group had an App on her mobile phone that enabled her to record the birdsongs and download them. The App then informed her of the name of the bird with a photo. This she shared with us giving us a greater understanding of the variety of birds present and their songs. For the bird lover this App is a great asset.

What we were seeing and hearing was a living natural ecology from its very foundation, in action all around us, and it reinforced our understanding that there was a purpose for all this! God **Loves** His Creation! He made it for the benefit of all aspects of Creation, including ourselves, so that we can all live together in harmony. To quote again Julian of Norwich, “*God made everything for love, and by love all things are sustained and protected, and ever shall be.*”

Clearly there is very much more of God's Creation that we do not fully understand. We know this already from watching recent episodes of Springwatch on BBC2!

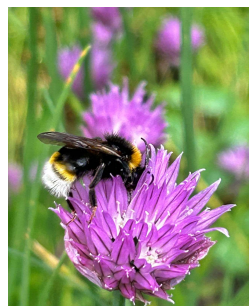
Why not take the time to come along to the next Silchester Retreat in August, “The Vine & the Branches”. You will have the time to take a walk on the Common to see and appreciate for yourself the **love**, peace and tranquillity of God's ongoing and active Creation.

To find out more about Julian of Norwich read *The Showings*, a contemporary translation by Mirabai Starr.

**Martin Frost,
June 2024**



Hazelnut



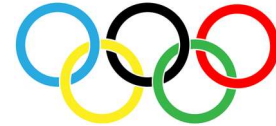
Bee



Foxglove

Many people will recall the popular film Chariots of Fire which came out in the 1980s. We are approaching the centenary of that big race...PP

Remembering the Faith of Eric Liddell – 100 years ago at the Paris Olympics



Pixabay

The 2024 Paris Olympics (26 July – 11 August) will soon be here. It was 100 years ago this summer, also at the Paris Olympics, that a young science student at Edinburgh University, Eric Liddell, ran an astonishing race that caught the imagination of millions worldwide.

Liddell had been born in China in 1902, to Scottish missionaries there. Early on, he had made a deep commitment to Jesus Christ, and sensed he was being called to spend his life in serving others. But Liddell was also an outstanding sportsman, playing rugby for Scotland before settling on athletics.

When he was chosen for the Paris Olympics, he expected to run his preferred 100m. But then came the news that the race would be run on a Sunday, and Liddell refused. Quickly, he trained for the 200m and 400m. He took bronze at the 200m, but no one expected much from him at the 400m. Instead, he won, and even broke the world record in the process.

After the Olympics, Liddell felt God calling him to his life's work. He went back to China, to teach in a Christian college. As the Second World War loomed, he sent his wife and children home, but stayed on himself.

By 1943 Liddell was confined to a brutal prison camp, where he shone among the fellow prisoners – encouraging them, teaching Bible classes, and praying for both his fellow inmates and the prison wardens. Deeply malnourished, his health failed and in 1945, just months before the war ended, he died, aged only 43.

In 1981 his story was made into the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*.

King Charles accepts the Patronage of National Churches Trust and Bible Society

Queen Elizabeth II was the patron of both charities, but following her passing, her patronages underwent review. Now King Charles has agreed to continue with his mother's legacy, saying he would be "delighted" to accept them both.

King Charles said his faith is "deeply rooted" in the Church of England. On his accession to the throne, he told faith leaders that he was "a committed Anglican Christian" and promised at his Coronation to "maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the gospel."

Chief executive of the National Churches Trust, Claire Walker, said: "We are honoured to welcome King Charles III as Patron. This highlights the significance of UK churches and the important role of the National Church in keeping these wonderful buildings open and in good repair."

Bible Society's chief executive, Paul Williams, said: "We're absolutely delighted with this news, and very thankful. This is an affirmation of the value of Bible Society's work in sharing God's Word at home and abroad." **PP**

75 years ago, on 29 July 1949 the BBC began broadcasting regular weather forecasts on TV.

Audio visual update – July 2024



Last month I shared some thoughts and questions about how to position the projector screen to enable as many people as possible to see it and also to ensure that there was a significant and visible cross during the service.

I have had a number of conversations with both former St Andrews and Trinity people, and those who are and are not members of Church Council about the issues. I have not spoken to everybody and I am very happy to talk to anybody about these plans if you have comments or suggestions.

Church Council met on 10th June and after some discussion agreed that we should move the screen to where the current lower cross is, and slightly reduce this cross, and move it to the wall behind the pulpit. The BB colours and plaques would move to the other side, and the hymn board removed, with other measures to share the hymns being used in the service.

By the time you read this, the only work to have been undertaken is likely to be the move of the colours and plaques and removal of the hymn board. We are currently looking at contractors to do the other work.

In my discussions with people I have used the word “canvas” to describe the front of the main hall. The idea is that there is a wall that we can use in whatever way is appropriate to enable, support and enhance our worship, and indeed work with the community in whatever way is appropriate. I believe that we will have a space that can be used flexibly according to the event or Christian season.

So I am keen to hear from anybody with thoughts about how to use this canvas. For instance, and it is by no means the only way to use the space, Church Council discussed the idea that we might have appropriate fabric hangings that would cover the screen when it is not in use. The artwork on the hanging could follow the Christian year, or just represent some element of our faith.

I believe we are on a journey about how we use the technology in the Main Hall to support our worship and discipleship. If you agree (or even if you do not), do let me know what else we need to do.

In the meantime, I am wondering:-

1. How should we use our canvas to help us all approach God?
2. How should we use this space to allow our preachers and worship leaders to share the Christian message more creatively and allow as many people as possible to understand?
3. If you like the idea of the hanging, what images should go on them, OR, are you able to paint, sew, crochet etc to produce the final hangings?

Church Council was also asked what else was needed so that we can share both our worship and facilities with as wide a group of people as possible. Claire posed eight possible situations that could exist in the church and wider community. Whether or not you have seen these, it would be good to hear your reactions to them. Alternatively, these examples might make you aware of a need that should be addressed!

cont'd....

1. *How can we be sure that everyone is able to access and participate in what is happening at the front, especially if they have additional needs (hearing, sight, learning, mobility etc)?*
2. *What technology is needed to support sessions with Children's and Young People's work?*
3. *When the Mug & Biscuit is open, what technology could we use to support the drop-in café?*
4. *When Maths tuition for students is taking place in the hall, the parents/carers stay in the Mug & Biscuit. How could technology be used to provide for this group as they wait?*
5. *Suppose we were asked by a small community group who would like to run some first aid training. The only space available is one of the two back sections of the church (there is already a church meeting booked in the sanctuary area). Some of the training requires access to the internet and screen. What could we offer?*
6. *Suppose we were asked to hold a large wedding reception that included a country dance with a live band as part of the celebrations. What technology might be needed?*
7. *Suppose we have a very large congregation for a funeral. There is an overspill of people into the small hall (and Mug & Biscuit). What technology would enable these people to participate in the service?*
8. *Suppose we were approached by an organisation that works to get people into paid work. They would like to work with us in the small hall to meet clients for appointments and help them complete forms on-line, access benefits etc. What technology might help us to do this?*

Let me know what you think.

Thank you, **David Webb**

☎: 07848 843360

Consumers or Disciples? (Mt 11:16-19)

To what can I compare this generation?

They are like children sitting in the market-places and calling to others:

We played a flute for you, and you did not dance;

We sang a dirge for you and you did not mourn.

We are a market-place generation. Consumers devoted to pick and mix, café church, traditional church, fresh expressions, stale expressions, flute playing, dirge-singing, dipping in and out, moving on, rejecting what doesn't please *me*, right now.

We are consumers, yes. But disciples? Life-long learners, Committed to the Way, Devoted to the Truth, experiencing the fullness of Life which is Jesus?

Prepared to endure to the end,

Being thankful in all circumstances, Even when that involves a cross?

Are we really becoming And making disciples?

God, who sent the flute-player And the dirge-singer, Give us wisdom.

by Daphne Kitching, PP



PRAYING & LISTENING



Sunday mornings –

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

Northern Housegroup

Our next Housegroups are on:

Tuesdays 2 July & 6 August at 7.30 pm.
at Sonia's home

Sonia, Edna & Hilary

The Fountain Prayer Group

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

on: **Thursday 11 July**

Thursday 25 July

'A Pause in August'



We will gather at 2.30 pm & begin at 2.45 pm with a short reflection. The rest of our time together includes a period of silence & some prayerful sharing. We finish the formal part at around 4 pm.

Please come even if you cannot attend every meeting.

Angela Webb (angela@webbfamily.org.uk)

Trinity Circle

Our *next meeting* will be on:
Tuesday 9 July at 2 pm (*'Earlier Time'*)

In the garden of Ann & Steve Walker.

This is our Annual Garden Party which Ann & Steve kindly arrange for us.

There will be a Donation Box for "Action for Children", the Charity we support.

* * * * *

Our *August meeting* will be on:
Tuesday 13th August at 7.30 pm
at St Andrews.

We look forward to welcoming a Speaker from the **'Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy' Team.**

Trinity Circle is open to everyone.

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:

Sundays 7 July & 8 September

* * * * *

JAM – Children & Families 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.

South Ham Churches Lunch Club

St Andrews, St Josephs & St Peters run a Lunch Club on the 2nd & 4th Fridays, 12.30 pm, at St Joseph's Church, St Michael's Rd. Open to over 55's, cost £5 per head. More info from **Churches' Co-coordinator, Hannah Lock.** If you would like to help more info from **Bob Lock, Methodist Co-ordinator.**



Litter

We have a gang of litter pickers who clean surrounding areas of the church, in pairs. Usually the rota calls on people once every two months. The church is surrounded on three sides by a public right of way, so you can gather the amount of litter deposited. The Gang has depleted in numbers so.....

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

Pixabay



Newsletter – ‘Events / Dates / Contributions’



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

Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:

Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

☎: 01256 323103 / email:

revclaire72@btinternet.com

* * * * *

Church Contacts: Joint Senior Stewards:

Diane Bath: ☎ 01256 320429 /

email: dianebath51@gmail.com

Linda Hoe: ☎: 01256 417219 /

email: lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk

* * * * *

St Andrew's Bookings: Contact: Bob Lock

email: robertlock1@virgnmedia.com

* * * * *

Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website:

www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

* * * * *

‘TUESDAY COFFEE CLUB’

Come and enjoy a ***‘cuppa & chat’***, everyone very welcome. We run alongside the ***Mug & Biscuit*** at the back of the church **10 am to 11.30 am**, finishing in plenty of time to grab lunch in the Mug & Biscuit! We aim to stay open ***all year apart from Christmas,***



Pixabay

Old Basing Methodist Church

CAMEO Club:

**Tuesdays 16 July & 20 August,
between 11.30 am – 1 pm**

Light lunch provided. Please bring your crafts along.

Gillian Smethurst



- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:

Trinity E-News Editor: Hazel Harris – email:

hazel@basingstokecircuit.net,

☎ 01256-461375, **address:**

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

* * * * *

Circuit Administrator: Mrs Marion Young, can

be contacted on: ☎ **07503 652961**

(working hours only), email:

marion@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

‘Crafting Bits’ – message from Yvonne Hunt: If anyone wants

some Crafting Bits (we have paints, coloured sand, felt, google eyes,

lollipop sticks and much more please contact Yvonne at: Outreach@BRMC.uk Pixabay



Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for President, and 50 for Miss America?



Christian Resources still available:

Steve Wood, is continuing to supply Christian Resources to Newbury, Thatcham and the surrounding area via 'Sonrise Christian Resources'.

You can **phone Steve on** ☎: **07396 825097** for any advice and to talk through the options available.

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

Oakley Methodist Church



Coffee Mornings:

July & August

10.30 am – 12 noon

**Tuesdays 9 & 23 July &
Tuesdays 13 & 27 August**

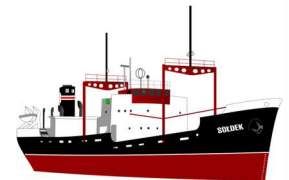
**£1 for a bottomless tea or
coffee & biscuits**

Paperbacks available 30p each

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

The second Sunday in July is Sea Sunday

There are several Christian organisations who work with seafarers, including: Mission to Seafarers, <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/> and Sailors' Society, <https://www.sailors-society.org/>



Sea Sunday – 14 July

Look around your home. How much of the contents of your bedroom, kitchen, living room and even garage came to you over the seas, via the great merchant ships? What would your home be like without them? Yet when did we last give a thought to the people who bring them to you? It is a curious fact that seafarers are one of the most important, and yet invisible, people groups in our society. We depend on them to bring us more than 90% of the world's goods and fuels, yet we rarely even remember their existence.

It suddenly makes Sea Sunday seem a very good idea: an annual opportunity to give thanks for the 1.89 million seafarers of the world, and to pray for their personal well-being. For going to sea is a lonely occupation. It separates families for up to nine months on end. It is also one of the world's most dangerous occupations, with physically demanding work as well as the threat of piracy, shipwreck and even abandonment. So this Sea Sunday, let's pause and give thanks to God for the seafarers of the world. Let's remember how their work so enriches our lives. Let's pray for them, for their families, and let's support the organisations that offer them care and support through their chaplaincy work.

One such is The Mission to Seafarers, which has Seafarers Centres in 50 countries, and offers not only practical support such as access to Wi-Fi and a place to relax, but also emotional and spiritual aid through its ordained Port Chaplains, who are constantly visiting the ships. **PP**

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**

RETREAT CENTRE SILCHESTER RG7 2NY PROGRAMME 2024



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

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

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

Numbers are limited.

All days run from:
10 am – 3 pm.

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

Suggested donation: £10 per person.

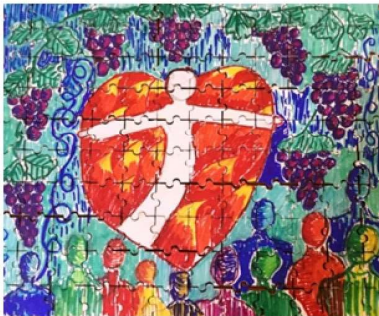


Location:
Paddle.worthy.windmill

Entrance: from:
Pamber Road, RG7 2NY.

Car parking & entrance to hall at rear of the church.

Saturday 10th August The Vine & the Branches



Let's explore together the picture language of Jesus.

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

John 15:5 (NIV)

FINAL 2024 Retreat:

**Saturday
23 November
'Cascades of Blessings'**

Wednesday 2nd October Memories

A chance to explore how we remember and are remembered.

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

Ephesians 1: 16 (NIV)



Our grandchildren are going to have a hard time paying for the good times we didn't have – *Anon*

* * * * *

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him –

Dereke Bruce

* * * * *

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

A Prayer by Megan Carter, PP

The 'I AM'

The 'I Am' spoke from the burning bush
 And Moses heard the voice of God,
 Take off your shoes he was told
 For it was holy ground he trod.

When Jesus came, He said 'I Am'
 The Bread of Life that Moses knew
 Who fed them in the wilderness
 With fire and cloud He led them through.

Good Shepherd who will lead us on
 Through desert times of pain and strife,
 The same 'I Am' that Moses met
 Who is the Way, the Truth, the Life.

	<p>At 21.06.24 the Foodbank – <u>Most Needed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deodorant • Shampoo & Conditioner 	<p>At 21.06.24 the Foodbank – <u>Running Low (cont'd):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tinned Spaghetti/Ravioli • Nappies Size 5 & above • Tinned Meat • Tinned Tomatoes • Savoury Snacks/Crisps • Washing up Liquid/Household Cleaning • Loo Roll 	<p>At 21.06.24 the Foodbank – <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
<p>At 21.06.24 the Foodbank – <u>Most Needed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tinned fruit • Coffee • UHT Milk • Milk Powder • Long Life Fruit Juice • Hot/Cold Desserts • Size 6 Nappies 	<p><u>Running Low:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savoury Spreads • Squash • Cooking Sauces • Custard • Sweet Spreads • Tinned Veg 		
<p> More info on web: www.https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/</p>			



"STEINWAY GRAND"
**PIANO
 RECITAL**

by
DAVID JENKINS
FRIDAY 27th SEPT
At 7.30pm

*David will play some of his own
 compositions, alongside music by
 Beethoven, Bernstein, Elgar, Grieg,
 John Williams and
 Lennon & McCartney*

Performed on the
 STEINWAY GRAND PIANO
 at

Caversham Baptist Church
 South Street, Caversham, RG4 8HY

Refreshments will be available

Tickets £10.00

To request tickets write to
concert@cavershammethodist.org.uk

In aid of the Christian Community Action
 Caversham Drop-In

'Spreading Hope and Love amid the Darkness'

Baptist organisations in
 Palestine and Israel are
 continuing to support people
 amid the 'heart-wrenching
 reality' of the war in Gaza.

One such organisation
 is Christian Mission to Gaza,
 whose founder and president
 is Hanna Massad, the former
 Pastor of Gaza Baptist
 Church.

In regular newsletters to
 supporters, Hanna details
 how CMG is actively involved
 in providing essential aid to
 those affected by the conflict.

This includes winter clothes,
 groceries, meals for people
 sheltering in churches and
 beyond (many Christians are
 sheltering at St Porphyrios
 Greek Orthodox Church and
 the Holy Family Roman
 Catholic Church), as well as
 financial support to help
 families meet basic needs,

PP

Peel the Seal, by Nigel Beeton, PP

I purchased a meal for my tea,
 That looked rather tasty to me.
 The film must be peeled –
 But it would not yield!
 How hard could this really be?

I searched for a corner to peel
 I searched by sight and by feel,
 I searched round and round
 It could not be found
 No edge could I find for that seal!

But I was concerned not to fail
 And I caught up an edge with my nail
 And with time and with care
 I had enough there
 To pull, but it tore and I wailed!

With the film I could not get to grips,
 And a knife just tore it to strips,
 There was really no way
 To cook it that day
 So I went for some nice fish and chips!



God in the Garden, by Philip Eley, Kevin Mayhew, £14.99

A year of weekly Bible reflections that follow the
 seasons and changes of the gardener's year. They
 help to encourage consistent devotional time – outside
 with God and deepening a spiritual relationship.

A good gift for gardener's, organic food growers,
 families with allotments and fans of our Wild Worship
 series. *The book* includes reflection questions,
 practical tips, advice and space for journaling, **PP**

Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Prayers June to August 2024

Being open to God

Revealing gifts we didn't know we had

This prayer outline recaps on the themes we have travelled through this year and uses our hands to help us to pray.

Become conscious of your breathing,
Place your hands on your lap,
Know yourself held in the loving gaze of God,
Breathe.

Put your hands up to your eyes,
As you gaze back at God,
With loveand breathe.

Put your hands up to your ears,
As you listen to God speaking to you,
Through your deepest desires,
Breathe.

Stretch your hands out in front of you,
Imagine putting your hand into the hand of Jesus,
Stepping out into the unknown,
Breathe.

Cup your hands in your lap.
Be open to receive as for the first time
The gifts within that God is revealing to you.
Breathe.

Thank God for the journey so far and all you have received.



When Radio encounters the Bible

A dramatist employed to write stories from the Bible in radio form was astonished at the end of a broadcast to hear the announcer say:

“Will Cain kill Abel? Tune in at the same time tomorrow and find out!” –

Albert R Perkins, Vogue Magazine 1943, PP

For Nature

We thank you
Lord of all
creation, for the
wonder of the
world in which
we live: for the
earth and all that
springs from it;
and for the
mystery of life
and growth.

from a prayer by Basil Naylor, PP

God's Promises for Everyone, by Shell Perris, SPCK, £9.99

*Wherever you go, God is with you. He won't leave you all on your own.
Have courage – God is always enough. Based on Joshua 1:9.*

This lovely gift book offers 50 promises of God. Each page takes a biblical promise and brings it to life in a short thought-provoking line of lyrical prose. Each page has the promise, a black and white silhouette illustration with a splash of colour, a lyrical piece of prose that inspires hope, comfort and peace and the Bible verse reference that the promise is based on. The book would be a great gift for children and families to explore together, or for special occasions to mark a journey of faith, such as Baptism or First Communion. Or a gift to encourage a friend and to treasure for a lifetime, **PP**

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.

Dwelling in the Word text: 1Corinthians 12: 4-7, 11-13 (CEV)

⁴There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. ⁵There are different ways to serve the same Lord, ⁶and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do. ⁷The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.

¹¹But it is the Spirit who does all this and decides which gifts to give to each of us.

One body with many parts

¹²The body of Christ has many different parts, just as any other body does. ¹³Some of us are Jews, and others are Gentiles. Some of us are slaves, and others are free. But God's Spirit baptized each of us and made us part of the body of Christ. Now we each drink from that same Spirit.

Ask God to reveal to you the gifts God has given you for the benefit of all.

Methodist Women in Britain, Southampton District

District Gathering

'Rooted and Grounded'

Thursday 11 July 2024

Romsey Methodist Church, SO51 8BZ

10 am for 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Donation / Workshops / Drinks Provided

'Bring your own lunch'



Methodist Women
in Britain

Prayer for July 2024

Father, Thank you for summertime, when thoughts turn to holidays and relaxation.

July is a month of endings for many; the ending of the school or college year and for some a moving on to the next stage of education or work.

Often, there is uncertainty or trepidation about the future.

Whatever stage of life we are at, whatever season of the year it is, we can feel uncertain and concerned in a world which seems increasingly secular and confusing.

Remind us Lord, of Your promise to be with us always, every step of every way, when we put our trust in You, through Jesus.

Thank you that in the ups and downs of life, You never change. You are the rock on which we stand securely, eternally.

Help us to move forward confidently, trusting in that truth.

Thank you, Lord.
In Jesus' name.

Amen.

*by Daphne Kitching,
PP*

All praise to our redeeming Lord,
 who joins us by his grace,
 and bids us, each to each restored,
 together seek his face.

He bids us build each other up;
 and gathered into one,
 to our high calling's glorious hope,
 we hand in hand go on.

The gift which he on one bestows
 we all delight to prove;
 the grace through every vessel flows,
 in purest streams of love.

Even now we think and speak the same,
 and cordially agree;
 centered all, through Jesus' name,
 in perfect harmony.

We all partake the joy of one,
 the common peace we feel,
 a peace to sensual minds unknown,
 a joy unspeakable.

And if our fellowship below
 in Jesus be so sweet,
 What height of rapture shall we know
 When round his throne we meet.

Charles Wesley 1707 - 1788

**Basingstoke
 Choral Society**



**Concert: Saturday 6 July
 at 7 pm**

All Saints Church, Odiham

for tickets visit:

www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk

Fuller information in June Newsletter

*Denzil Walton is a writer living in Belgium.
 He is a member of the International Baptist
 Church of Brussels.*

The Glory of Creation

*(This poem is most often used as a hymn.
 It was written to the tune Ewing (Jerusalem
 the Golden), but can also be sung to 'Stand
 up Stand for Jesus'. They are both 7.6.7.6.)*

The glory of creation, throughout the universe,
 So wonderful in essence, delightfully diverse.

Antarctica to Asia; the jungles of Brazil,
 Established by the Father,
 with loving care and skill.

From mountain tops to valleys;
 in forests and in parks,
 We watch the playful squirrels;
 we hear the joyful larks.
 Wild orchids so unusual;
 bright parakeets so loud,
 Rare butterflies so fragile;
 the tiger standing proud.

Deep mysteries, of oceans
 and unknown outer space,
 Migration paths of swallows,
 the eagle's nesting place.
 The more we gain in knowledge,
 the less we understand
 This world so rich and complex,
 created by God's hand.

But crisis looms upon us;
 the planet's under threat,
 The global climate's changing,
 the balance is upset.
 The melting of the ice caps;
 diversity declines,
 Extinction of key species;
 we're overwhelmed with signs.

So Father please forgive us for
 spoiling Planet Earth,
 Give us a chance to change it;
 to instigate new birth,
 Let's care for Your creation,
 in details and in whole
 Protect, preserve and cherish;
 may this be our new goal.

by Denzil Walton. PP

Read Exodus 4:10-17

Do you talk to God like Moses did?

Would it help to write that conversation down like a dialogue?

Are you like Aaron or Moses?

Is there someone whose gifts complement yours?

Prayer for the New Circuit

We pray for the new Berkshire Hampshire Borders Circuit which we will be a part of from this September. We pray for those who will have a leadership role, the Circuit Leadership Team, for Ministers, Circuit Stewards, Lay Employees, Church Stewards.

We pray for the local churches and their congregations, for Andover; Bradfield; Burghfield Common; Caversham; Christ Church Chineham; Christ Church Woodley; Church of the Living Stream; Emmanuel; Hungerford; Kingsclere; Mortimer; Newbury; Oakley; Oakridge; Old Basing; Silchester; St. Andrew's / Trinity; Tadley Common; Tadley Main Road; Thatcham; Tilehurst; Trinity, Lower Earley; Wesley and Whitchurch.

Guide us as we join together, help us to encourage and inspire each other; excite us by signs of growth; lift us when we see only signs of decline; open our eyes to potential areas of local mission; help us to recognise the gifts you have given us and see your gifts in others; give us the grace to work together in mission.

Lord of our lives,
lead us forward as your people
in the places where we are.
Amen.



Can you Help to 'Dry Out' Marygate House?

A retreat house on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne is in big trouble. It is very wet! After years of winter wind, gales, and endless rain, the property is suffering extensive damp. Many thousands of people will know Marygate House, which has served visitors to the island since 1970. It is now run by a small Christian trust who wants to repair the building for future visitors, but it needs a final £20,000 to do so. A crowdfunder has been set up for donations for the repair work. If you love Lindisfarne and would like to help, please visit:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Marygate-House

Dr Peter Brierley reflects on Britain's Prime Ministers, PP

Prime Ministers

Britain had its first Prime Minister (PM) in 1721 when Sir Robert Walpole took the job; he was a Whig. In total thus far we have had 81 Prime Ministers; this excludes First Ministers and doesn't count separately an existing PM who wins the election and continues in office. If s/he loses but subsequently wins another term, each term is counted separately.

We have had 56 different people as Prime Ministers.

The longest serving one was Sir Robert Walpole, who was PM for 21 years. In length he was followed by the Tory William Pitt the Younger in 1783, then by Robert Jenkinson, the Earl of Liverpool in 1812, also a Tory.

These are the first three of PMs who have served over 7 years. There were 16 PMs in the 18th century, 33 in the 19th, 25 in the 20th and so far seven in the 21st century. Labour and the early Tories had slightly more time in office than the number of Prime Ministers *pro rata*. Rishi Sunak is the first British Asian Prime Minister.

Basingstoke Chaplaincy Prayer Letter – April 2024

Although this was in the last newsletter, in the printed copies it was too small to read, hence I've typed it and repeated it. The format that I pick up has changed and is now much too small, but is alright for the email copies but not for the printed ones.



We all at the Town Chaplaincy trust that you had a joyful Easter.

The Easter message is one of amazing love. It is humbling but gives us hope and assurance – for ourselves and also to share with everyone else. Let's stay rejoicing in the risen Lord Jesus Christ!

Malcolm Read, who showed God's love and shared that Good News of Easter at the Bus Station, was commemorated on Maundy Thursday by Stagecoach South with a plaque which was unveiled by Malcolm's widow. The plaque installed on the Bus Station concourse is the way drivers and management wanted to express their appreciation of the pastoral care and friendship Malcolm gave for some 14 years.

Other people and organisations have also expressed how helpful it is to have an independent person willing to listen to people's concerns. But, we are in great need of Chaplains to do this. We are part of God's Mission (Missio Dei) reaching out to people who otherwise have little or no contact with Christians or the message of hope we bring. Please pray that God will call Christians in Basingstoke to show His love to others as chaplains. *Could you give 2 hours a week to show care for others, or do you know someone who would be good at doing that? Even fortnightly would be a great help!* We can discuss any specific role and give plenty of time to test the calling.

We offer taster sessions, training and full support. Wearing a uniform is helpful as people feel more relaxed speaking to a stranger they can identify. Having some listening skill helps a lot; as people unburden they can process their worries while the Chaplain listens. So, after a person feels they have been heard, an appropriate word and perhaps the offer to pray – there and then or later in the office – brings a calmness and means so much. We want to encourage engagement with God. We work in the courts, shops and other places of work. In addition, we have been asked to provide Chaplains to 3 Christian organisations working in Basingstoke along with engaging at the railway station and 2 care homes. We cannot provide anyone for these places at present. So a new Chaplain could have a sitting down role, enjoy a stroll in the park (Eastrop Park!) or loiter with intent to care for someone in the town centre.

The police have been active in the town following up reports of shoplifting and dealing with drug dealers. We should be grateful to them but they are under a lot of pressure. Stress is bad for relationships and, like many people they have personal

concerns of different sorts. With the Police Chaplaincy we help to support all the staff. The Magistrates' Courts are similar, where the Chaplains provide a listening ear and calming influence to many stressed people. It can be a good place to talk about forgiveness and acting rightly or managing new circumstances. Please pray for all working in or otherwise involved with the police and justice services.

We continue to visit shop workers when there are fewer customers and hear people's concerns, which are often health, family and financial issues. We have recently visited with token Easter gifts, and have got to know some shop staff well over the years. We pray regularly for many of them, individually and collectively.

We are also engaging more with people of other faiths as opportunities arise. Several of us attended a recent breaking of the Ramadan fast at BCoT and we look to share views on various aspects of life with people of all faiths or none.

Please join us in praying for all who work in the town, that our community will be peaceful and supportive of one another and that Jesus Christ will be honoured more and more.

We have also enjoyed visiting churches recently to engage more. After all, we would love to see more of the people we meet attending a church and growing in Christ! Thank you for your support.

John (Hayward)
Chair of Trustees

Please pray:

- for Chaplains to be a blessing to people in their places of work
- for more Chaplains to enable us to better meet requests for a Chaplain
- for people in the courts and using the situations to speak of repentance and forgiveness
- for personal and collective well-being in the town
- for wisdom talking to people with many difficult situations needing to be overcome
- that prayers will be answered and people will recognise God's help in their lives
- for growing unity in the churches and opportunities to refer people to a church activity

Recycle Plastic Milk Bottle Tops, (only milk ones)

Please give them to Pamela who has a Hants & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance contact. Tops can be given to Pamela or ring the Bishop family on ☎: 01256 467702. Thankyou.



Ukraine War: Help Support the Church in Ukraine with

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

- If you can't sleep, don't count sheep, talk to the Shepherd.

The Christian life is not a way 'out', but a way 'through' life – *Billy Graham, PP*

* * * * *

The existence of the Bible is the greatest blessing which humanity has ever experienced – *Immanuel Kant, PP*

For the Young & Young at heart

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

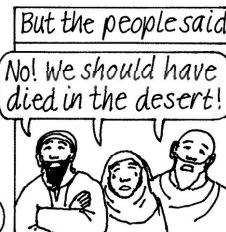
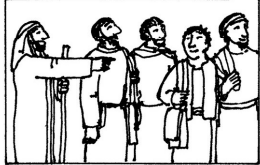
It can be read in the Bible in Numbers chapters 13 and 14

God had rescued the Hebrew people from Egypt and led them to the border of the land He had promised them- Canaan. But it was not empty..

12 young leaders were chosen to check Canaan out.

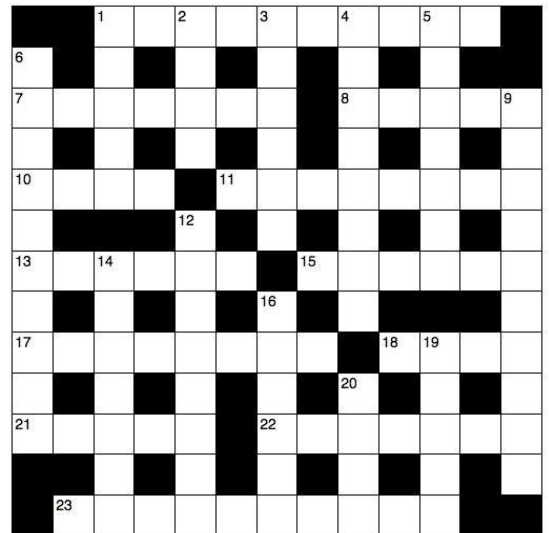
They went north to where Abraham had been buried..

and they returned 40 days later with fruit, and their report...

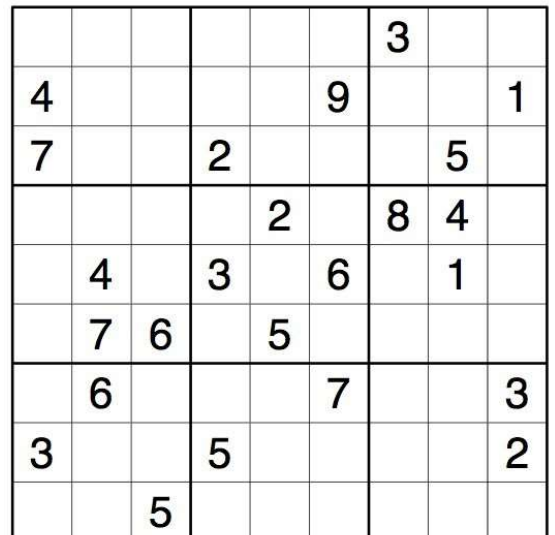


PUZZLES

Crossword



Sudoku



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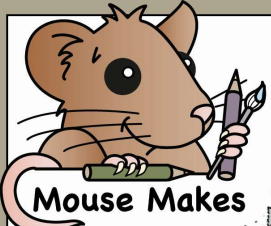
M S E A D E Y L I E C O W H
 R P E L H N Y C N H N L O T
 A O L A C I T C A R P H R N
 T H R B S H I P W R E C K A
 V S S O R Y L I A D I Y I H
 H E I L U A A Y A A P N C
 C A M G I H T D S D H Y G R
 P F F N I U I R N T E S E E
 A A S S U N P U O E J B C M
 F R I E N D S H I P M O A A
 L E N V I R O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

Wordsearch clues for Sea Sunday

14th July brings us Sea Sunday, the day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to our daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea, they quite literally keep our global economy afloat.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|
| July | Shops | Environments |
| Sea | Economy | Piracy |
| Sunday | Afloat | Shipwreck |
| Remember | Harsh | Hundreds |
| Pray | Working | Global |
| Give | Port | Thanks |
| Chaplains | Merchant | Hospitality |
| Seafarers | Friendship | Daily Practical |

Mouse Makes



How many days did the Lord tell Joshua to march around the city of Jerico?

 Joshua 6:3

What was carried along behind the priests?
 The _____
 Joshua 6:4

What did the priests carry that were made from rams' horns?

On the seventh day how many times did they march around Jerico?

 Joshua 6:6

Who was saved from Jerico along with her family?

 Joshua 6:17

READ the story in Joshua 5:13-6:27

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

JERICHO • LORD • JOSHUA • ISRAEL • KING • PRIESTS • GUARD CAMP • MARCH • AROUND • DAYS • WALK • ONCE • BLOW • HORN • SOUND DAWN • SHOUT • CITY • WALL • FELL • FLAT • FIRE • BURN • DESTRUCTION

Find the question answers in the word search too!

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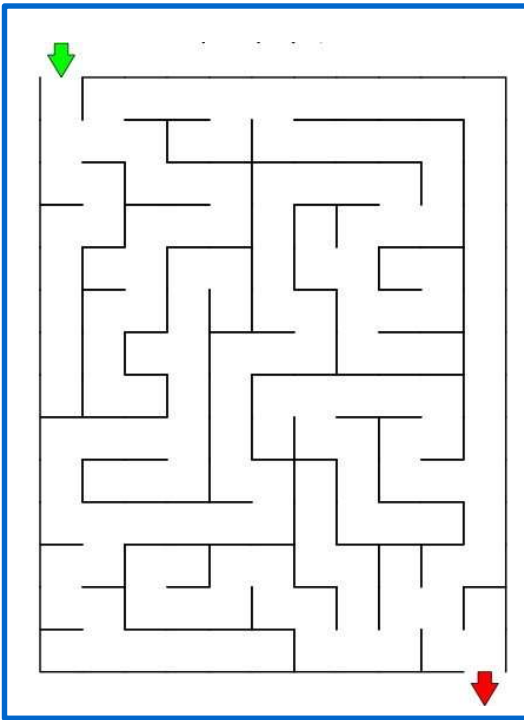
Crossword Clues – Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1— 6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

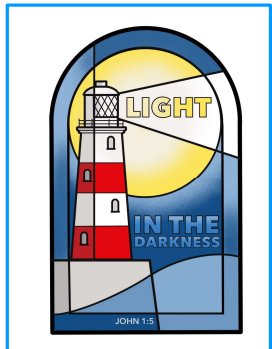
Crossword Clues – Down:

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1-11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

If we fail to feed the needy, we do not have God's love, no matter what we say. Regardless of what we do or say at 11am on a Sunday morn, affluent people who neglect the poor are not people of God — Ronald Sider, PP



- When you go to church you should actively seek something. You must not go like an empty basket, waiting passively to be filled — Roger William Riis, PP



Puzzle Pages Solutions

Across: 1, Sabbathal. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation.

Down: 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.

Sudoku Solution

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

The tale of the Lost Sheep

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE STORY WAS ALL ABOUT A GOOD SHEPHERD.

WHO TOOK GREAT CARE OF ALL HIS SHEEP

THE SHEPHERD WOULD ALWAYS MAKE SURE EACH SHEEP WAS SAFE.

HE WOULD COUNT THEM AT THE END OF EVERY DAY

BUT ONE NIGHT HE REALIZED A SHEEP HAD GONE MISSING

HE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW

AT LAST THE LOST SHEEP WAS FOUND!

THE SHEPHERD SET OUT TO SEARCH FOR THE LOST SHEEP

THE SHEPHERD COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HAPPIER!

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT GOD LOVES US IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE GOOD SHEPHERD LOVES HIS SHEEP.

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

Country	Caleb	Giants
Complain	Joshua	North
People	Chased	Land
Egypt	Leaders	Win
Children	Hebrew	Fruit
Bigger	Canaan	Trust
Abraham	God	Report
Desert	Border	Attack



- I believe that there is no one lovelier, deeper, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus – not only is there no one else like Him, but there could never be anyone like Him – *Feodor Dostoevsky, PP*