

Father's Trinity E-News Sunday 16 June



Issue 05/24

Trinity's email: trinit y@basingstokecircuit.net

June 2024

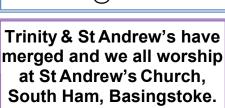


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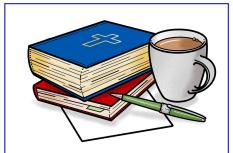
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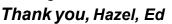


Trinity E-News: Deadline: July & Aug 24 Double Issue:

Frid 14 June 24, sorry earlier this time.

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.



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Link: Circuit Website: www.basingstokereading methodists.uk



Inside this Issue Pastoral Letter, Steve Smith 3 Save the Date, 8 June **Social Afternoon** 3 Cream Teas at Silchester Sundays 4-5 **Sunday Services** 4 **New Circuit Name** 6 3GENERATE 2024 8 **Diary Page** A Table for the Nation 9 10-12 Memories of Julian 13 The Face of Jesus 14-17 **Church Council** 17 Prayer – Darkest Days JAM, Trinity Circle, 18 18 Northern H/Group. 18 Fountain Prayer Group 20 Audio Visual Update 23 Silchester Retreats 25 The Walk to Basing 26 YWAM Update 28-29 Chaplaincy Letter 30-32 Puzzle Pages

God has given us two hands – one to receive with and the other to give with – *Billy Graham*

Online Circuit Services at:

https://www.basingstokereading methodists.uk/worship-prayer June 2024

Dear Friends

In the May edition of this newsletter, Anne wrote of the Christian calendar which was leading up to Pentecost and then on to Trinity Sunday.

As I write this pastoral letter for the June edition, Pentecost Sunday is tomorrow (19th May) but in reality, has been celebrated for over 2000 years by the Christian Church.

When we think of Pentecost, then we think of the coming of the promised Holy Spirit upon the Church and with that, the Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

To help in understanding what the differences are between these gifts and fruit we can open our bibles and read the passages in 1 Corinthians 12 and Galatians 5 respectively, but in simpler terms they can be understood as follows:

The gifts of the Spirit revolve around the work, mission and purpose of the Church, so include teaching, leadership, ministry, faith and healing. They are given to continue the work of Christ both in the Church and in the world. These are vocational gifts given to those who are called to serve Christ in the Church and its earthly ministry.

The fruit of the Spirit is available to us all as Christians and its purpose is to demonstrate the person and character of Christ within our lives and to the world around us, something that is very much needed today!

Galatians 5 verses 22 – 23 tell us that the fruit of the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control.

This fruit is something that every one of us can show in our lives and in our daily relationships with those around us.

In Matthew 5 as part of the sermon on the mount, Jesus said that we are the 'salt of the earth' and the 'light of the world' – this

after the passage known as 'The Beatitudes' where he lists the many who are 'Blessed' by their condition or situation, i.e. those who mourn, are meek, merciful, pure of heart, peacemakers, or persecuted because of righteousness.

This is where we are called to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in ourselves today, to be Christ here in Basingstoke (or whereever we find ourselves). To show the love and nature of Christ to those around us by acting in love, peace, humility, with patience, joy, kindness and goodness, while exercising self-control.

When you walk around the area you live, take a moment to offer a smile to those you encounter, say 'Good morning' or similar to add a little salt and light in to another person's life!

So many people seem to be self-isolating these days and won't make eye contact, which has got to be a very lonely place to be! Your smile or simple greeting might just lift that person, even if only for a moment or two.

One of the things that I disliked about being in large cities like London or Manchester, was how lonely it could be to be around so many people without any real or meaningful social contact. How everyone was holding themselves so tightly, eyes down and away from contact, head down, closed off from any interaction! That is not how people are meant to live!

Our smiles, our warm greetings, can make a whole lot of difference, can lead to conversation and to making new friendships, and can perhaps even help someone turn away from a much darker path for their future, by sharing a little of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

God bless you all,

Steve (Smith)



Save the Date

You are



invited to

a fun



afternoon at

St Andrew's Methodist Church



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

Games......singing.......

puzzles.....



and afternoon tea.

Saturday 8th June 2-5pm

Come along and join in the fun!

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

From: Church of the Living Stream:

Our Minister, Revd Claire Simpson,

has recorded some inspirational thoughts on Pentecost.

Please visit our YouTube channel to view the posting. The link is:

https://youtu.be/817 <u>FHuet-</u> <u>cU?si=cdR3KVQ16LC</u> uWy09

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.



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**



60 years ago, on 4 June 1964 the Beatles' first world tour was held. Over two months they
played 30 concerts in seven countries, beginning in Copenhagen.



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:

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

Dates	2 June	9 June	16 June	23 June	30 June
Trinity &	Rev Claire	Rev Jackie	Peter Frank	LA	John Smith
St Andrew's	Simpson, S	Case			
10.30 am					
Church of	LA	S Turner	J Skeet	Neil Graham	Rev Claire
L Stream					Simpson
10.30 am					
Oakley	Mrs Linda	Mrs Sarah	Rev Claire	Nick	LA
10.30 am	Hoe	Whithorn	Simpson, CA	Klingaman	
Oakridge	Stephen	Rev Claire	Rev Barbara	Mrs Sarah	LA / ACM
10.30 am	Appiah	Simpton	Mcintivey	Whithorn	
Old Basing	Peter Frank,	Neil Graham	Mrs Linda	Rev Claire	Neil Graham
10.30 am	CA		Hoe	Simpson, S/	
				ACM	

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

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

New Circuit

The NEW Circuit: We are changing to the 'Berkshire Hampshire Borders Circuit'. There are two 'Meet & Greets'. At Newbury Methodist Church on 9 June and Tilehurst Methodist Church on 14 July, both 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)

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

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

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

A Night in June

The sun has long been set,
The stars are out by twos and threes,
The little birds are piping yet
Among the bushes and the trees;
There's a cuckoo, and one or two thrushes,
And a far-off wind that rushes,
And a sound of water that gushes,
And the cuckoo's sovereign cry
Fills all the hollow of the sky.

by William Wordsworth

Shield me

O may God shield me, and may God fill,
O may God watch me,
and may God hold;
O may God bring me where peace is still,
To the King's land, eternity's fold.
Praise to the Father,
Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three in One.

from The Creed Prayer, poems of the Western Highlanders



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

It is 3 Generate Time again, **3Generate** is the children's & youth Assembly of the Methodist Church. We as a Circuit are going for the whole weekend, indoor camping at the NEC . **3Generate** is open to 8 -18 year olds, Frid to Sund (or Sat only):

We are especially asking for your Payers and Financial Donations to help support our young people for this amazing opportunity. Donations can be made to the Church or Circuit just indicate it's for 3Generate 2024.

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

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

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

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

'Parent Consent Forms' need to be completed and returned by <u>23 June</u>.

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

'A group of 20 plus children went from the Reading area, we had met some of them beforehand. The accommodation was in tents within the building and very well organised. I even ended up with a proper bed (ask me if you want to know more). A brochure was provided for all the activities that were available for the children to do. It included climbing, craft work, escape room, silent disco, computer generated themes, quiet spaces and more.

I am not sure how many children were there but someone told me over 1,000. We took over three halls within the NEC. Even with everyone it wasn't noisy. There was a lovely buzz and the children were so well behaved. The worship on Sunday was fantastic and we learnt some new songs which we hope to teach the BB boys at camp next year (if we remember them!) When we hear so much moaning about young people today it was refreshing to see all these young people playing and interacting together and learning about Jesus in so many ways. They collected a magnet for each activity they took part in. There were twelve to collect, many managed to collect them all'. **Linda**

30 years ago, on 6 June 1994 the highest individual score in first-class cricket was achieved.
 Brian Lara scored 501 not out while playing for Warwickshire against Durham. It is the only score of 500 or more in first-class cricket history.

'New Singing Group'

The First Meeting of the 'New Singing Group' was on Monday 29 April at 2 pm, when 15 of us had an enjoyable sing together. A good number of us met again on 27 May. We would love to see more people, especially a few more Men so 'Bob doesn't feel outnumbered'! We have some more dates for your diaries: we're meeting next on:

Monday 3 June at 12 noon & Thursday 6 June at 2 pm.

Do come along and join us - 'Everyone' is very welcome' - 'The More the Merrier'. We look forward to seeing you. If you would like more information, have a word with Peggy.



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



A '<u>BIG Thankyou</u>' to all the very kind folk who have our drinks ready for us after the service each Sunday, so we can enjoy chatting with friends. (More Volunteers welcome). Also our Thanks to the Volunteers who man the 'Mug & Biscuit' on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays each week, serving coffees, teas, cakes and light lunches etc. Again (More Volunteers would be very welcome).

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the Similarities between Faith & Sport The Euros 24

A former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, 'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'

This month sees the start of the UEFA Euro 24 football tournament, which will be watched by millions across Europe and the world. Yet it also illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the Cup themselves. For us the prize is the eternal life, God's gift of relationship with Him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the Euros you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is undeserved and is not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win Euro 24, they need to have trained hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we must train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our *godly muscles*, we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going? (PP)

Diary Page, Tr	rinity / St Andr	ew's - Check out the Church Noticeboards!			
Dates	Timings	EVENTS – at St Andrew's unless stated otherwise			
Weekly & Month	ly Events – T/T (term-time)			
Tue, Wed, Thur weekly term-time	10 am – 1.30 pm	Mug & Biscuit Open for drinks, biscuits, cakes, tea-cakes, light lunches, <i>page 24</i>			
Tues, weekly	10 am – 11.30 am	Tuesday Coffee Club, page 19			
Wed, weekly, T/T	1.30 pm - 3.30 pm	Knit One, Drop One			
2 nd / 4 th Fridays <i>monthly</i>	12.30 pm	South Ham Churches Lunch Club, at St Joseph's Church page 18			
2 nd & 4 th Thurs, twice monthly	2.30 pm – 4 pm	The Fountain Prayer Group twice monthly unless otherwise advised, page 18			
Youth Organisat	tions – Weekly, I	Mostly Term-time – abbreviated to T/T in places			
Mon, weekly, term-time	7 pm – 8.30 pm	1st South Ham Guides, (10–14 yr olds), Leader: Sarah, New Members Sign Up via Girl Guides' website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus page 17			
Wed, weekly, T/T	•	3 rd South Ham Rainbows, (4–7 yr olds), Lena Ponting			
Wed, weekly, T/T		3 rd South Ham Brownies, (7–10 yr olds), Lena Ponting			
Thurs weekly, T/T		Playtime U5 Group, Contact: Theresa Strachan			
Frid, weekly	6 pm – 10.30 pm	3 rd Boys Brigade, Captain: Theresa Strachan, <i>page</i> 22			
Other Events (in	cluding events t	hat are once a month)			
JUNE					
Sund 2 June	2.30 pm	JAM, page 18			
Mond 3 June	12 noon	Singing Group			
Tues 4 June	7.30 pm	Northern Housegroup, at <u>Westdeane Court</u> , page 18			
Thur 6 June	2 pm	Singing Group			
Sat 8 June	2 pm – 5 pm	Social Afternoon, All B/Stoke Methodist Communities, <i>page 3</i>			
Sund 9 June		MHA Sunday			
Mond 10 June	2 pm	Church Council Meeting, pages 14-17			
Tues 11 June	7.30 pm	Trinity Circle, page 18			
Thur 13 & 27 June	2.30 pm	The Fountain Prayer Group, page 18			
JULY					
Sund 7 July	2.30 pm	JAM, page 18			
Thur 11 July	2.30 pm	The Fountain Prayer Group, page 18			
SOME CIRCUIT DATES					
Sundays	3 pm – 5 pm	Cream Teas at Silchester, every Sunday, June & July			
Sund 9 June	4 pm – 5.30 pm	'Meet & Greet' at Newbury Methodist Church, page 4			
Tues 11 June	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning at Oakley MC			
Wed 12 June	10 am – 3 pm	Retreat, Silchester MC, RG7 2NY, page 23			
Fri 14 June	7 pm	Quiz & Pizza Night, Burghfield Common MC			
Tue 16 June	11.30 – 1 pm	Cameo Club at Old Basing MC			
Tues 25 June	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning at Oakley MC			
Sund 14 July	4 pm – 5.30 pm	'Meet & Greet' at Tilehurst Methodist Church, page 4			

• Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it – *Mark Twain*

'A Table for the Nation'

When we think perhaps, that life holds no surprises for us, we hear or see something completely unique. This was my experience recently.

Staying in Kent, I visited Rochester Cathedral. This is the second oldest, after Canterbury, the guide informed me. I have been a frequent visitor over the years, but a different experience awaited me. Stretching down the centre of the Nave, was a magnificent table.

Made of Black Oak and named 'The Jubilee Oak Table' It's length 13 metres, (43 feet). Black Oak is an extremely valuable wood, found in Boggy ground.

Buried for 5,000 years, a tree thought to have been an acorn in 3500 BC, which grew, it is believed to have been 55 metres tall. Preserved by the peat it lay in. Discovered in 2012 and made with the skill, and creative ability of craftsmen, it now displays a wonder of design and the imagination.

The table dedicated to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the table was unveiled in 2022, the year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and is 'A table for the Nation.'

The table has been more than an exhibit, it has been used on various occasions, and as a result money has been raised for charitable purposes.

A table is a meeting place. Over generations families, nations, statesmen and women, have gathered around a table. Peace treaties have been signed, bonds recognized and strengthened.

God invites us to His table. When we share Communion, we are His guests. We all bring something to His table. Our hopes, fears, personalities. And we are all welcome.

In his poem 'Love bade me welcome' George Herbert (1632) writes —

day after my visit. It will be in Lincoln for a year.

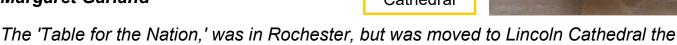
'Love says, 'You must taste my meat' and I did, sit and eat.'

The table has such significance, and we can only thank God for the place we have, at His table.

God bless you.

Margaret Garland

Table from Rochester Cathedral



200 years ago, on 16 June 1824, a London Vicar, Arthur Broome, and some 22 of his friends, including the MPs William Wilberforce (anti-slavery campaigner) met at Old Slaughters Coffee House to found the SPCA – the first national animal protection society in the world. By1840 Queen Victoria had given permission for it to be called the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

150 years ago, on 22 June 1874, the first lawn tennis sets went on sale in London. They included balls, racquets, a net, poles, court markers, and instructions. They were designed by Walter Clopton Wingfield, who is credited with having invented modern lawn tennis. Wimbledon began hosting international lawn tennis championships in 1877.

Obituary

(taken from the Order of Service)

It's with a heavy heart that we are devastated to announce that Julian has peacefully passed away on his favourite day of the year, Easter Sunday. His death, which is a shock to all, is a huge loss to not only our family and those around him but to the communities and charities he did so much to support throughout his life.

Julian was diagnosed with a very rare progressive condition at a young age, LMBBS (Laurence Moon Bardet Bedl Syndrome) affecting his sight, balance, vital organs and life



Photo taken from the Order of Service

expectancy. Defying all medical odds and breaking stereotypes daily, Julian continued to not only let his condition and loss of sight define him, but went above and beyond to keep a positive attitude towards everything and enjoyed a very exciting, full life.

Julian's passion for helping others was boundless. He volunteered and worked with endless charities and organisations in his time. A few to date being Guide Dogs, Helping Hands for the blind and the LMBBS Foundation. He tirelessly advocated for the rights and well-being of the disabled, setting up a disability forum to amplify the voices and promote positive change in our community. But he didn't stop there, his commitment to inclusivity extended to organising the Disport Games, an annual event attended by thousands in its time, from all across Hampshire, ensuring everyone, no matter what, had the opportunity to enjoy sport and feel a sense of pride and community. His dedication to making the world a better place was truly inspiring and remarkable.

Beyond his charitable endeavours, Julian had a love for musicals that knew no bounds. His vibrant spirit and zest for life took him on countless adventures around the globe, whether that be touring the States with his Laurel and Hardy fan crew or attending a Doctor Who Convention with his niece. He was always looking for a new place to explore and new things to experience. He also never forgot to bring back a T Shirt.

I really could go on and on about him and his extraordinary life but it would take far too long to write but to all, my uncle will always and forever be an inspiration and hero.

By Kiya (Julian's niece)

"He has ceased to be. Bereft of life, he rests in peace. He's kicked the bucket, hopped the twig, bit the dust, snuffed it, breathed his last and gone to meet the great head of Light Entertainment in the sky!"

Monty Python (Dead Parrot Sketch)

Memories of Julian continue over the following 2 pages, and have been written by Nigel Merry.

Memories of Julian Thomas by Nigel Merry

Three things come to mind when I remember Julian... his can-do attitude, his humour and faith.

Julian was born on the same day as Freddie Mercury and he loved Queen music and other 70's and 80's music. One of his favourite songs was "Don't stop me now, I'm having a good time." This sums up Julian.

I met Julian 36 years ago when I joined TROG (a group of similar age people at Trinity Church). As we were the same age we hit it off.

As I was 3 months older he used to call me the "old man". We spent many happy evenings with TROG. We also went on weekends away each year and had fun – and Julian loved having fun.

Julian enjoyed his football; and was a Liverpool supporter, we went to Anfield, and he shared his passion for the team with others.

He was chair of the disability access group in Basingstoke, and was important in the starting of the disability forum. In later life he was one of the trustees. He helped run the disability days in the town centre and was heavily involved in improving the lives of disabled people in Basingstoke, for instance lowered kerbs for wheelchair users, or awareness for shop staff.

Disability days have been going for nearly 15 years – and offer an opportunity for people to come and find out what support may be available. Julian was one of those who provided this advice, although because of his failing health he had to do less at recent events.

He was a member of "Helping Hands" which supports blind people with both practical advice and fun and friendship.

Julian was an expert at getting people to support him in his projects. An example of this was Disports – sport for disabled people – at Cranbourne School. Julian loved sport. He was a keen swimmer and went to disability sports games around Hampshire. When the Disports leaders felt unable to continue, Julian took over the leadership with the support of Pauline and Bob from Basingstoke Rotary and people from the Lions Club and other volunteer organisations, and ensured that this was a FUN activity for disabled people, and one that would build confidence. Members of these organisations, along with myself, acted as Julian's gofers.

So for instance, if Julian and the team organising Disports needed more walkie talkies, he would send me out to the field to give them to the team. I was the person who Julian sent up the ladder to sort things out. Julian acted as the Mayor's escort at Disports and helped give out the medals at the end of the day.

Julian worked with the Department of Transport and the Association of Train Operating Companies to provide a training video for all railway staff across the UK about being disabled and travelling on the railway.

Another part of Julian's life was he loved shows. Julian and I would go round the country – Manchester, Plymouth, Blackpool, London – causing havoc. One of his

Cont'd.....

heroes was Russ Abbott, and wherever he was in the UK, we would go. We went to the Russ Abbott radio shows in London. He met a Bond girl – Honor Blackman – at Russ Abbott's production of "My Fair Lady".

We went to see Russ Abbott playing Peter Pan, and during the stage fight with Captain Hook, the audience were encouraged to throw sponge bricks at Captain Hook. Because we were sitting in the front row, many of the sponges landed on us, and I collected them up and gave them to Julian for him to throw...of course I needed to tell him where to throw and he threw enthusiastically.

When we went to see Cinderella the ugly sisters came out to taunt the audience and Julian would heckle back as only he could. When Ugly Sisters went for their response, Julian would hold up his white stick. Game, Set and Match to Julian!

Julian met his match with Ken Dodd at the Anvil – we were in the front row with Tim, and when Ken Dodd came out, his opening line was "I've found the 3 stooges" and pointed to the 3 of us. Julian roared with laughter.

I went to see Grease the musical at London with Julian and his Natwest colleagues. We got dropped off on the North side of the Thames, and Julian and I decided to walk to Dominion Theatre on Tottenham Court Road. This meant walking through Soho, and I decided that as Julian was partially-sighted I could not corrupt him (and I kept my head down). What could go wrong?

While we were walking through Soho we heard somebody call out "Julian". I told him "we will keep walking – we are not stopping in Soho". A bit further on and we heard this person call again. I said, "Let's keep walking and I will see if I can see who is calling". I looked back to see a Metropolitan Police officer running after us in Soho. I am thinking "I don't believe this", so we stopped and allowed him to catch up. It turned out that the officer was a former bank colleague who was now with the Met Police and whose beat was in Soho. I thought "Another Fine Mess you have got me into".

Julian was a man of faith, he drew great strength from that, and from the fellowship at church. Many of us from Trinity will recall happy times of fellowship shared together at Church weekends away and Julian joined a group from church at Spring Harvest weeks too. There he not only shared his faith and worship but had great fun too.

His disability did not prevent him taking part in church services. He felt a clear calling to lead worship and trained alongside Rosi Taylor and Ann Walker. They were all commissioned as Worship Leaders together on September 4th 2011, after which Julian prepared services with many different preachers, recording readings and prayers on a Dictaphone, so that he could use an ear piece to deliver his words clearly at services.

Just before Christmas I spoke with him on the phone I told him I was going to play Father Christmas at a care home. I was greeted by the biggest laugh and "Ho Ho Ho" down the phone.

Julian – Thank you. Another fine mess you have got me into, *Nigel*



Both photos taken by Nigel

The Face of Jesus

What did Jesus look like? There are no contemporary historical records, statues, or paintings giving us any indication of the Face of Jesus. Indeed, why should there be as "He's just another scripture thumping hack from Galilee"? (Jesus Christ Superstar 1973, quote from Annas the high priest). There are many statues, paintings and mosaics in the National Archaeological Museum, Naples, from Pompeii, Herculaneum (Vesuvius eruption 79AD), and across the Roman Empire, depicting life in the Empire at the time of Jesus, and in the following years, but no references to Jesus.

At the recent Silchester Retreat we reflected on the Face of Jesus and were shown many pictures and paintings of Him made over the centuries. These depicted the traditional bearded long haired young man, and the crucifixion. Some saw him with an ethnic face, Asian, African, Oriental, relating to a particular Christian community identifying Jesus with themselves. I appreciate all these but have a different view.

I see the Face of Jesus as a reflection of ourselves as we travel the Christian journey throughout our lives, becoming more Christlike. Before Jesus was crucified he told his disciples "And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:16-18.

We learn also in Roman12:2, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

We learn from this that if we are obedient to God's Word we develop a personal relationship with Jesus, our Counsellor and friend, and become Christlike.

Look at the faces of the members of your church during worship and prayer times and you will see the Face of Jesus in each of them, reflecting their personal relationship with Jesus at that very time in their spiritual growth as they become more Christlike. Look also at your own face and see Jesus in yourself!

The film directors of the 1959 film Ben-Hur clearly recognised this Biblical truth, and shared it with us. They deliberately do not show the face of Jesus in the film, but only the faces of those that interact with Him. Here are some good film clip examples.

- 1) We see Ben-Hur, a slave in Roman times, dying of thirst and being given water from a stranger from a carpenter's shop. We see in the face of Ben-Hur, the love, compassion and hope of Jesus in saving him.
- 2) We also see the encounter with the Roman centurion, a man given the power and authority of Rome, the greatest empire of its time, facing this village carpenter, and then recognising Jesus's supreme power and authority over all things. We see the face of Jesus in the centurion, that we should "Fear" Him knowing that He has seen us deliberately sinning, but also seeing that He gives us the opportunity to repent of our sins.

Available on YouTube. Ben-Hur 1959 - Jesus gives Ben-Hur water. 4.28 minutes.

3) Another example we see in the film is the face of Jesus in Ben-Hur showing the immense suffering Jesus undertook for us on the road to Calvery and the crucifixion, and the message to us all that whatever hardships we face on our life's journey we should always strive to be obedient in doing His work.

YouTube. Ben-Hur 1959 "Judah Ben-Hur Gave Water To Jesus". 3.42 minutes.

Martin Frost, May 2024

MINUTES OF THE ST ANDREW'S/TRINITY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 MAY 2024 at 2 pm

PRESENT: 23 Church Council members attended

- 1. **Welcome:** Revd Claire welcomed those present, and thanked the people that had put out the chairs and arranged the tables into small groups. She felt that this made it easier for people to share and to hear one another throughout the meeting.
- 2. **Opening Devotions:** Revd Claire read Isaiah Chapter 43 v. 18-21 followed by a prayer.
- 3. **Apologies:** 5 Church Council members tendered their apologies.
- 4. **Minutes of the Meeting** held on 5 February 2024 were accepted as a true record.
- 5. Matters Arising:
 - <u>BB Plaque</u> Revd Claire drew attention to the two new plaques on the wall commemorating Trinity Church's long historical association with both the Boys' and Girls' Brigade. Special thanks were given to JL and her husband for enabling this.
- 6. **Church Council Members:** Joyce Smith and Hannah Lock were welcomed as recently elected Congregational representatives.
 - Pastoral Secretary: JL offered to serve in this capacity and was elected unanimously.
- 7. **Property:** Revd Claire thanked RL for his report which had previously been circulated to CC members. There were no questions.
- Finance: SW had circulated her report and set of accounts for the eight months to the 30 April 2024. There were no questions but SW gave a short explanation of St Andrew's finances.

Proposal by SW that when the Boys Brigade attend the annual summer camp that the church makes a donation of £1,200 towards the expenses of the four BB Leaders. TS drew attention to the BB camp trip on 14 June. Revd AW spoke about the cost of the summer camp, and other overnight BB outings, where some boys would not be able to attend because of financial hardship. Revd Claire said that how we invest in our children and missional youth work is something the Church Council will discuss, but for the time being can we agree in principle that the Church will help towards the costs where there is real hardship. For this meeting can we agree to donate £1,200 for the BB Summer Camp. Proposed SW and seconded by MH. There was a unanimous vote in agreement. With regard to the BB trip on 14 June, Revd Claire asked TS if the BB account had sufficient funds to cover the cost. TS agreed that this trip can be selffunded. Revd Claire mentioned that in the Autumn we may be able to put a budget together for outreach projects. DW proposed to CC that as a principle we would not want young people unable to go to a Christian event through lack of funds. His proposal was seconded by HR and carried unanimously by CC members. Revd Claire mentioned that there were other ways to give support, such as sponsoring a child to attend 3Generate.

Finance Trinity:

Copies of Trinity's accounts to 7 May 2024 were circulated to CC members. MH said that she had attended a meeting last week to finalise the accounts as far as possible, all that is remaining is for the Trinity utility bills to be sent to Peter Frank, and once that is done MH will close Trinity bank account. Revd Claire thanked SW and MH for looking after the Church accounts and also thanked HB who looks after gift aid.

Minutes of Church Council cont'd

Reports from Other Groups:

Worship Group: Revd Claire thanked AW for taking notes and preparing the report which had been circulated to CC members. There were no questions but AW had a proposal for the meeting, "that this Church adopt a token system for the Offertory". AW explained that when we take up the offering, we are not just collecting money in the bag, also, some people have already given by other means eg; standing order. Now, in addition to the money, we can have something else to put in the bag, the offertory token which is inscribed "All things come from You O Lord, and of Your own do we give You. (Whether it be our money, time, prayers or talents). Everything we have has come from You, and we give You only what You first gave us. 1 Chronicles, 29 v 14" Proposed by AW and seconded by HR. After some discussion a vote was taken, the result was 15 for the proposal, 3 against and 2 abstention. Agreed by majority vote. Revd Claire suggested that we introduce the offertory token at the start of June when she is leading Worship. This gives time for AW to put it in the E News and for LF to produce a slide to show on the screen.

Worship Group Next meeting: Due to a funeral the meeting has been changed from 20 May to Friday 24 May 2024 at 2.00pm in the Small Hall. Stewards were asked to put this change in the Notices for our service on 19 May.

Tech Group: DW had written a detailed report together with a proposal to CC "to modify the sound and visual technology used in the Church". His reports had been circulated to all CC members. DW thanked all the people who had helped by explaining how the present audio systems work. He had attended several meetings, had received valuable feedback from the congregation and also had engaged in separate conversations. He expressed his thanks to all those who got involved and said that it was now time to decide what happens next. DW went through his report, discussing in detail items 1-7 in the Section A Simple Fixes. There was much discussion and many questions asked. MP demonstrated his device for eliminating window light shining on the projector screen. DW said that he would like to continue with the speakers on trial for another 4 weeks. These came from Trinity Church. TS asked if it was intended to get rid of the original St A's speakers. DW replied not necessarily, but they are missing some software which is no longer available. It might be possible to find a Tech expert who maybe able to reprogramme the speakers. Revd Claire asked the meeting it we were at the point when we could agree the proposal that we undertake the Simple Fixes, items 1 to 9 noting the estimated cost of £3,500. TP counter proposed that we give DW a ceiling of £5,000 to give him more leeway for the Tech Group to make these changes. DW proposed the simple changes with a budget ceiling of £5,000. Seconded by RL and all CC members voted unanimously in favour. Church Council considered various options put forward that involved moving the screen and/or wooden cross, and different views were widely shared.

TP suggested we encourage those who remain seated throughout the service to sit at the front so that they can see the screen, and people who stand can be behind them rather than in front obscuring their view. Also, that the chairs at the front should be the ones with arms for the folk who might be encouraged to sit at the front. This suggestion was agreed by all.

DW asked the meeting to give some thought to other uses for our building apart from worship. For example what do we have to do to make it a good, useful space, for non-Christian, non-worship space. Revd Claire suggested that we have an extra CC meeting on 10 June 2024 at 2 pm when we can think about other uses for our building. Agreed by all.

Minutes of Church Council cont'd

Pastoral Group: reports were received and circulated. There were no questions.

Outreach Group: ditto

Children's/Young People & Families Groups: Revd Claire suggested that the reports from U5's/Boys Brigade and JAM can be amalgamated into this groups' report in the future.

U5 and Boys Brigade: reports were received and circulated. There were no questions. **JAM:**

Communications Person: Revd Claire said that with so much going on in our new Church we really need to recruit a person to fill this essential role. She urged anyone interested to contact her, and asked CC members to think about suitable persons they might approach to ask if they would be interested in finding out more about this role.

9. Safeguarding/GDPR:

<u>Safeguarding</u>: MH confirmed that everything was up to date. She emphasised that safeguarding was important to every CC member, and anyone who had concerns about safeguarding issues should talk to her or JL.

<u>GDPR</u>: Revd Claire – We will begin to get ourselves organised in our Church community. There are some things we need to do to show we comply. We have a duty to delete information as well as keeping current records up to date.

10. Name of our New Church

Revd Claire explained that we recently canvassed the opinions of our wider Church community about how we approach choosing/changing our name. We were canvassing opinions, not voting. People were asked their views on the proposed name change to South Ham Methodist Church @ the St Andrew's centre. 59 people responded. The result was:- 28 people said Not in agreement. 18 people said Yes to change. 13 People expressed No preference. There were also some additional comments:- The new name is too long. We don't need to change the name at all. We need a new name because we are a new community, not just the sum of two separate churches having come together. 8 respondents all suggested the alternative name of "St Andrew's and Trinity Methodist Church". Revd Claire said it looks like a 50/50 split. How do we move this forward, as two churches have closed and come together as a new community. TP read out the Methodist Church Rules on churches merging. VE suggested we have a period of time before making a decision. Revd Claire said we should all go away and pray about this. We will come back to this again when we have had the opportunity to think about the community and take more time to reflect.

Any Other Business

Extended Communion: Previously SW was a person who gave extended communion, and also had a lay authorisation to preside at Holy Communion within the Basingstoke and Reading Circuit. Revd Claire asked the meeting to approve SW and affirm her in the role of taking extended communion from our church to those in our community who are unable to get to church. Unanimously agreed.

A Methodist Way of Life

Revd Claire had order a quantity of these very accessible pocket guides, to be used in the Mug and Biscuit. She suggested that they could be given to people outside of the church to share God's message, and would be useful in striking up a conversation.

Extra Sunday Service: One Church Basingstoke Service Sunday 19 May at our Church 7 pm.

Minutes of Church Council cont'd

Farewell

Revd Claire thanked TP for making a valuable contribution to our Church Council. She wished him and Jennifer all the very best for their impending move to Herefordshire.

- 11. Dates for the text two Church Council Meetings held in Church
 10 June 2024 at 2 pm
 21 October 2024 at 2 pm
- 12. Date of Annual Church General Meeting:
 Sunday 20 October 2024 immediately after our Service.

Darkest Days

Father.

I thank you that even on the darkest of days, I can find your light shining through.

In the touch of a friend

In a glimpse of nature

A message by text

A call of a bird

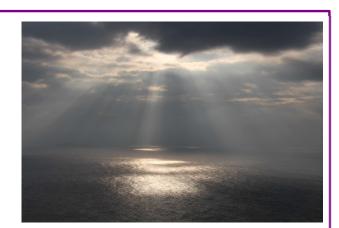
And by remembering that your love is constant,

By counting my blessings and knowing that you are always there,

On days, when all my strivings to find you, seem in vain.

Surround me with your love and guide me through the day.

Jennifer Pitt



Greetings from 1st South Ham Guides

Greetings from 1st South Ham Guides! We moved to meet on Mondays at St Andrew's Church a few months ago and we love our new home. Thank you so much for the warm welcome and support!

We've had a very busy term so far, which has included staging an art exhibition, Easter fondant modelling, team challenges and some of our members being the first to make their Guide promises in our new meeting place. Now that the warmer weather has arrived we have turned our thoughts to outdoor activities – making bird feeders and bug hotels, planting sunflowers (we await news of how high they get), a water/olympics evening and embarking on a penny hike. We have campfires and outdoor cooking planned as well, when we will be further afield and not at the church. Lots of our Guides have auditioned for the Basingstoke Gang Show – a fabulous variety show staged at The Haymarket alongside Basingstoke Scouts – and we await news of their successes.

Guides is open to any girl aged 10-14, and you do not have to have been a Brownie to join. You need to register via www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus and as long as you put Monday as your first choice and select our unit, the enquiry will come through to us.

Sarah

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 Housegroup is on:

Tuesday 4 June at 7.30 pm.
Edna Rawlins will be hosing this in the 'Lounge at Westdeane Court' and Hilary Reed is taking our evening.

Edna, Hilary & Sonia

The Fountain Prayer Group

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

on: Thursday 13 June Thursday 27 June Thursday 11 July



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 11 June at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's.

We are pleased to have Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf as our speaker.

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

(JAM) - 'Jesus And Me'

.....

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



The Next 'JAM' Dates are: Sundays 2 June & 7 July

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.

'Recycle your Used Postage Stamps'

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



Image, Pete's photo

 Advice to Young Clergy on Preaching: 'Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.'

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.



'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,

Di Spencer

Pixabay

Old Basing Methodist Church CAMEO Club:

Tuesday 16 June, between 11.30 am – 1 pm

Light lunch served. Please bring along crafts of your choice

Gillian Smethurst

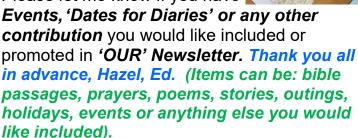
On Saturday 15 June Old Basing M/C & St Mary's will be running a joint stall at the Old Basing Carnival,

please come along and pay us a visit. The procession starts at 12 noon from Royal British Legion in Crown Lane.



<u>Newsletter – 'Events /</u> <u>Dates / Contributions'</u>

Please let me know if you have



Useful **2** & Email Contacts:

Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

2: 01256 323103 / email: revclaire72@btinternet.com

Church Contacts: Joint Senior Stewards:

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

Linda Hoe: **2**: 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

Useful & Email Contacts:

Trinity E-News Editor: Hazel Harris – email:

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

Circuit Administrator: Mrs Marion Young, can

be contacted on: **2** 07503 652961

(working hours only), email:

marion@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

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

- Notice outside a church –
 Worn out? Come in for a Service!
- The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for man is to pray – S D Gordon

Audio Visual Update - May 2024

Further to last month's update, the team have been looking at the issue where the present screen is often obscured when people are standing and blocking the view of others. Unsurprisingly the solutions involve having words and video displayed at a greater height.

At the most recent Church Council meeting, the team shared possible solutions, which were:

- 1. a screen in front of the lower cross which would be dropped from the ceiling during services. Whilst the lower cross would be covered when the screen is lowered, there would be the option to project a cross onto the screen during worship and it would be possible to have a smaller cross on the communion table. This option does allow both the lower cross and the screen to be centrally positioned and visible according to what is happening in the hall.
- 2. moving the screen and lower cross both up and to the side. Whilst both the repositioned lower cross and screen would both be visible during worship, the lower cross would be to one side of the apse.
- 3. using monitors at the front of the hall and on or near the first partition instead of projecting onto the screen. Whilst the lower cross would always be central and visible, there would be a sense of looking in different directions during worship and thus there would not be a common focus.

A number of useful observations were made, and so the team will be refining some details and then presenting the final options for a decision.

I would be very happy to chat through the details with you, and if you have comments or suggestions, then I would be very interested to hear from you. I do have some rough drawings of what each solution might look like, if this would help, and which I can share with you.

Alternatively, the following questions might help:-

- a. Is it important to see the screen from where you sit or stand, or should we invite those who are unable to stand to come to reserved places at the front of the hall and others to move out of the way of those behind who are shorter?
- b. Is it important to always have the lower cross visible during worship, or is the presence of other crosses sufficient?
- c. Does it matter if people look in different directions to see words and pictures in our common act of worship?
- d. Does it matter if the front of the hall looks "cluttered", asymmetrical or "uneven"?

Lastly, you will be aware of the desire that whatever changes we agree should serve both the need to worship God more completely and provide something that will of benefit in a non-religious way if possible. Is there a solution that is better than others for the community?

Thank you, *David Webb* (07848 843360)

MHA Sunday:

MHA are delighted to announce that our long-standing patron and friend, TV and radio presenter Pam Rhodes, is fronting our campaign and has supported us by presenting our 2024 video. This year our free downloadable pack includes a complete order of service and videos, including a sermon – everything needed to lead an MHA Sunday service and perfect for Local Arrangements. MHA Sunday 2024 will be held on 9 June – Free Worship Resources. (taken from Circuit Notices)



Circuit – 'Calling all keen quizzers' – Fund-raising Quiz & Pizza night at Burghfield Common, Friday 14 June at 7pm. We are inviting quiz teams from all churches in the Circuit to attend. (from Circuit Notices)



Taken from One Church BStoke

Request from Churches in Ghana, *Circuit*

- Any Bbles that are spare in churches – including the AV Bible.
- 2. 1933 Methodist hymn books (Words and Music Edition),
- 3. Hymns & Psalms (Music edition)
- Hymns Ancient & Modern (Music Edition)
- 5. BBC Songs of Praise (Music Edition)
- 6. Anthem Books in English
- Piano / Violin or Guitar Tutors / music books for the children's Department
- Sankey Sacred songs & Solos
- 9. Books about the writers of hymns & hymn tunes
- 10. Any hymn books with music
- 11. Books of Carols
- 12. Other related books which might help churches in Ghana.

Please email Cornelius Nii Amu Quarshie on

niiamuquarshie@gmail.com

to inform him as to what you might be able to send to him. If you or your churches have any of these books spare, then Cornelius would be very grateful.

Shipping these books to Ghana is free via:

Catherine Brown of Browny Logistics C/O Browny Logistics Unit 4, Regent Court, South Way, Andover SP10 5NX

3: 07412 687214

You just have to contact Catherine by phone or email:

enquiries@brownylogistics.co.uk
and arrange for the books to be
delivered to her. Her firm ships to
Ghana and they do not charge us for
the cost of shipping to Cornelius. He
then sorts through the books and
gives to where they are needed in the
country. (Circuit Notices)



Christian Resources still available:

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

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

2: 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: June

10.30 am - 12 noon Tuesdays 11 & 25 June

£1 for a bottomless tea or coffee & biscuits

Paperbacks available 30p each

Proceeds to the Red Cross this year.

Also the Oakley Front Garden
Stalls will be held on 22 June
and we will be having a stall
outside Church again between
12 noon and 4 pm.

People have stalls outside their houses all round Oakley and there is a map showing where they are and what they are selling so everyone can visit the ones they want to.

Food for the Journey Bible Themes: 365-Day Devotional Various Authors, Edited Elizabeth McQuoid, IVP, £25.99

This book provides Bible readings for the whole year from trusted Bible teachers at the Keswick Convention. Featuring well-known speakers such as Alistair Begg, Don Carson, Jonathan Lamb, Peter Maiden and many more, it offers daily encouragement to draw closer to God through His Word. The book is an omnibus of the Food for the Journey Themes series, with a theme for each month of the year. It features three brand new themes that are only available in this volume: Grace, Suffering and The Holy Spirit.

'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

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.

Wednesday 12th June Enfolded in Love

A day with Julian of Norwich

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



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

The theme for the Retreat on 12 June is 'Enfolded in Love' – a day with Julian of Norwich. An Anchoress, Julian of Norwich (1342-c.1416) is known to us through her book, The Revelations of Divine Love. If you are used to writing in a journal or notebook, you might like to bring this with you.

The Retreat will be led by Revd Angela Webb, David Webb and Revd Lesley Martin.

Refreshments available from 9.45 am for 10 am start, ending at 3 pm. Hot and cold drinks and biscuits available all day and cup-a-soups at lunchtime, please bring a packed lunch. Suggested donation £10. A REQUEST – If you live in Reading & could offer a lift to a worshipper at Tilehurst Methodist Church who would like to attend? Please let Angela know. To book a place or make an enquiry please contact angela.hiscock@btinternet.com (tel. 01256 850432)

For enquiries or to book for any of the Retreat Days please contact Angela Hiscock at: angela.hiscock@btinternet.com or *phone Angela* on \$\infty\$ 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 cupa-soup provided.

Suggested donation: £10 per person.

Location:

Paddle.worthy.windmill

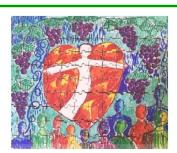
Entrance: from:

Pamber Road, RG7 2NY.

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

Future 2024 Retreats:

- Wed 2 Oct 'Memories'
- Sat 23 Nov 'Cascades of Blessings'



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)

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



The Chief Purpose of Man

How clever man is, he has conquered the skies, Reached for the stars and stepped onto the moon.

But he still does not know why he is here Or what is the purpose, or why he was born.

And did it all start with one big bang
As stars and galaxies burst into space?
Or was it the hand of a mighty Creator
Who lovingly fashioned this wondrous place?

Into this world God planted a garden And placed man there to enjoy its delights, But he soon disobeyed and sin entered in, And so, man was banished and thrust from God's sight.

How gracious God is, He has reached out again To reconcile man and bring him back home, Sin's debt has been paid by the death of His Son, To know God as Father is why man was born. by Megan Carter, PP



At 28.05.24 the Foodbank – Most Needed:

- Tinned fruit
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Hot & cold desserts
- Long life fruit juice
- Deodorant
- Savoury spreads, marmite, paste

At 28.05.24 the Foodbank – Running Low:

- Washing up Liquid
- Household Cleaning
- UHT Milk
- Custard & Evaporated milk
- Sweet spreads
- Cooking sauces
- Savoury crackers
- Tinned spaghetti /Ravioli

At 28.05.24 the Foodbank – Running Low:

- Squash
- Tinned veg
- Tinned meat
- Coffee
- Tinned tomatoes
- Savoury snacks/crisps
- Loo roll.

We have Plenty:

- 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



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

The Walk to Basing

Several years ago, I walked with the Methodist's Minister's wife to Old Basing. Through Riverdene, past the ponds in Eastrop Park, under the ring road, and then where the Hampshire Clinic stands, to The Street, and finally our destination, St Mary's Church.

We chatted as we walked. I cannot remember all the conversation, but I do remember snatches of it. In particular we noticed the rubbish, which had been thrown into the bushes, spoiling the natural growth around us.

All kinds of rubbish, bottles, cans and cardboard, its presence an offence to God's creation.

However, in between, tiny shoots of green, as the vegetation forced its way through. The ugliness being replaced slowly, not without effort, but persistently taking the place rightfully as its own.

Years earlier in Glasgow, I walked with a teenager though a deprived area of the city. She moaned about the amount of litter around, the state of the streets, and how depressing it was. I urged her to look at the night sky.

To see the stars, the same ones that shone over the Trossachs and Loch Lomond, well known for their beauty.

We can see ugliness everywhere. In nature, in people, and if we are honest sometimes in ourselves. But we can also see beauty, in the kindness of friends and strangers. In the smile, the 'Hello' and in the little 'weed' growing by our own front door. Unsown, unexpected it pushes towards the sky.

I know someone who has a strong growth of chives at their front door. Self-sown. So, who knows where the seed will fall?

A warning perhaps of the 'seed' we sow every day, and a reminder to look for God's beauty in His world.

God bless you,

Margaret Garland

Open Farm Sunday - 9 June

Hundreds of farms across the UK are preparing to open their gates to the public. **Open Farm Sunday** is back for its 18th year and offers the public a chance to see how farmers can produce food sustainably, while also caring for the environment and wildlife. It is organised by the global



sustainable farming charity LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming). The event has been praised as being a "great family day out".

Some farms opening on *Open Farm Sunday* are also LEAF Marque certified. This means that they are farming regeneratively, nurturing healthy soil, protecting water, supporting nature conservation and enhancing wildlife habitats.

On those farms, people can find out more about the LEAF Marque, which they may have already seen on fruit, vegetables and other products in the supermarkets. More details at: www.farmsunday.org. *PP*



YWAM – Establishing a Christian Lighthouse and Oasis in Egypt, May 2024

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

Readers may well recall an article in the April edition of the E-News requesting prayers and financial support to assist in the purchase of a building, the House of Hope, a Youth With A Mission (YWAM) project in Cairo, Egypt. The project is ongoing and we would request again further prayer and financial support for this very important Christian outreach project. Funds are urgently required to complete the purchase of the House of Hope, to provide support for refugees and displaced people in desperate need, some fleeing from conflicts in neighbouring countries. These include Egyptians, Sudanese, Yemenis, Palestinians and other people groups in Egypt. The House will enable outreach teams from all over the world to come to Cairo to give support to these refugees in their desperate situation.

The challenge now is to fully fund the property over the next 12 months; the outstanding balance initially being USD 985,000. The agreement is to pay USD 485,000 by the end of July 2024. We thank God that donations already received have now reduced this to USD 350,000. The remaining balance of USD 500,000 is due by the end of July 2025.

Contributions can be made online using any bank or credit card. The link for donations is: https://donate.ywamcos.org/partners

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

If you would like to find out more about the work of YWAM, their vision and this project, please contact them at the following email address: houseofhope@okegypt.ch. Your personal financial assistance towards meeting the needs of the House of Hope is greatly appreciated. Every donation whatever the amount will turn hope into reality for those in need.

Blessings, *Martin Frost*

Watching Birds is Positively Good for you

So says a new study out of North Carolina State University. It goes on to say that watching birds is even more beneficial to us than watching other forms of wildlife. The new study found that birdwatchers' recorded 'distress' levels dropped by 13.7 per cent, compared to that of nature-walkers' at 6.9 per cent. The study suggests that the reason may be that birds provide their own narrative and sense of drama, which can be enough to lift someone watching them out of the everyday.

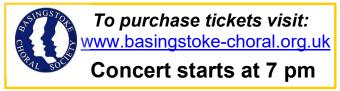
The author and presenter Kate Humble agrees. "There is something reassuring about life continuing and nature just getting on with it, even if it feels like the rest of the world is falling to bits. Birdwatching makes me feel part of a bigger, richer, beautiful picture." "Birds give me an excuse to explore and find some solitude and calmness away from the bustle of life," says James Lowen, author of 52 Wildlife Weekends. "It helps put me in my place." PP



And a couple of photos Peter took of our blue tits

We've been watching our blue tits flying around all day back and forth feeding their young in the nesting box on our shed. They work so hard feeding their young, Peter & Hazel

Choral Suite from The Armed Man by Karl Jenkins Traditional Songs and Spirituals Saturday July 6th 2024 All Saints Church Odiham Conducted by David Gibson Wine and Strawberries served from 6pm. to 6.45pm Tickets: £20 including refreshments See website for details: basingstoke-choral.org.uk





__On the beach at Kingsdown

Walmer Castle











A Super Holiday

Very recently we had a week away in Kent. Kent isn't somewhere we've really explored until we went on a family holiday last October to Whitstable, a beautiful, quaint fishing resort. It was a great location allowing us to get to lots of places without travelling very far. Having wetted our appetite, we decided to go to Kent again in early May this year and stayed in a little coastal village called Kingsdown, two minutes down the lane was a little private beach, perfect, and we had great weather too.

An interesting fact about Kingsdown is that nearly 100 years ago on 6 August 1926 Gertrude Caroline Ederle (20) became the first ever woman to swim the English Channel. She departed at 7 am from Cap Gris-Nez, France and surprised the sleepy villagers of Kingsdown by coming ashore in Oldstairs Bay, Kingsdown at 9.40 pm, dressed in a bikini and motorcycle goggles designed by her and her sister. She did the crossing in a record-breaking time of 14 hrs 31 mins. Due to extremely challenging and stormy conditions, she had to swim the equivalent of 35 miles, approximately 10 miles further than the anticipated point to point. Gertrude was profoundly deaf for most of her life and spent much of her later life teaching deaf children to swim.

Whilst in Kent, we visited several castles – Dover, the biggest, *pictured below,* looking very wonderful as you approached it. A lot to see at Dover Castle. Then we went to Walmer Castle, quite different, furnished and carpeted and very homely with beautiful gardens. The Queen Mother was their Lord Warden for over 25 years and stayed there many times. Very recently they have opened up the Queen Mother's apartment to the public. The Queen Mother also had her own private garden at the castle, *pictured below.* Finally we went to Deal Castle. Both Deal & Walmer are very close together along the sea front and used to be one site.

Whilst away we also went to the 'White Cliffs of Dover' and Canterbury Cathedral and more.

Peter & Hazel







Chaplaincy Prayer Letter April 2024

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

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 2: 01256 467702. Thankyou.



Ukraine War: Help Support the Church in Ukraine with Bibles: http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/getinvolved/donate/



For the Young & Young at heart



A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Ex.19:3-9, 20:1-21, 24:7, 12-18, 32:1-25, 34:1-9

God rescued the Hebrew people from Egypt and led them to Sinai mountain. There He offered them a contract....





Moses climbed the mountain. and gave him two stones labs with the contract on them.









Moses talked ... for (Aaron, that Moses isn't coming back. We) 40 days and nights can't worship something we can't see.

something we can worship









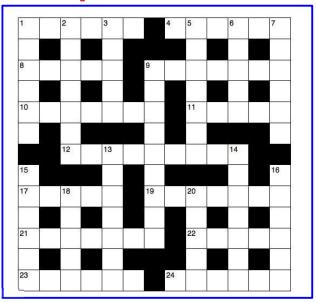








Crossword





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

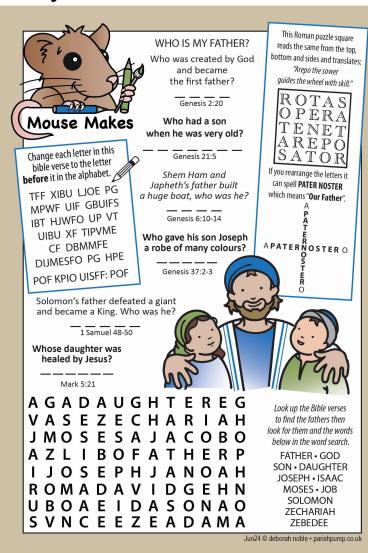
Wordsearch

Do you like messing about in boats? If so, then you'll have heard of St Elmo's Fire. It is the light that is sometimes seen on mastheads of boats after storms at sea. St Elmo is another name for St Erasmus, a fourth century Syrian bishop who was not afraid of violent storms.

Boats	Legend	Storm
Elmo	Preaching	Sea
Fire	Thunder	Fourth
Light	Ground	Century
Masthead	Respect	Bishop

Sailors Courage Saints Died

Persecution

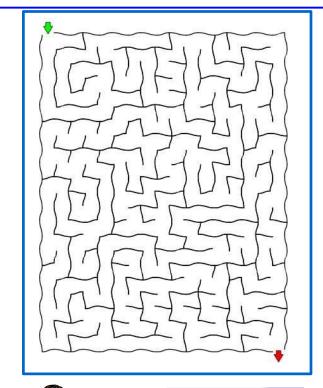


Crossword Clues - Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Crossword Clues - Down:

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)







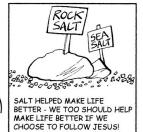
The tale of the Salt and Light

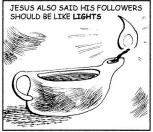








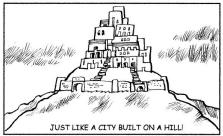






'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS





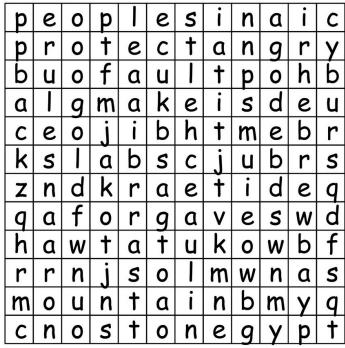
Puzzle Pages Solutions

Across: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop.

Down: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

Sudoku Solution

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









Forgave	Promise
Angry	Talked
Moses	Mountair
Back	Contract

omise Statue Iked Sinai ountain Fault ntract Make Stone Worship People Slabs

Gold Climbed Egypt Aaron

Hebrew Protect God Rules