



Our Minister is:
Rev'd Audrey D Browne
 ☎: 01256 323103;
 email:
 padbrowne@hotmail.com



On Our Circuit Website, Under 'Worship & Prayer', there are: *Worship Resources, Services & Sermons* as well as our **Weekly Circuit Services.**

Also Services dating back to the end of March 2020.

Our thanks also go to ALL the 'Zoom' team for the weekly 'Zoomed' services.

Link to our Website:

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

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Trinity E-News – Deadline for February 2021 Issue is Thursday 21 January

Trinity E-News is also on our Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website.

I really look forward to receiving your articles, so do please keep them coming. A **Big** Thankyou to everyone who sent in articles for this newsletter. You can send articles by email or post.

Thank you again, Hazel, Ed

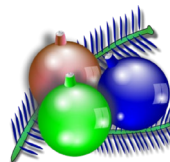
(☎ 01256-461375)

16B Portacre Rise, Basingstoke, RG21 1YQ. **My email is:**

hazel@basingstokecircuit.net



Advent



Dec 20 & Jan 21

Comfort my People!

Dear friends,

It is a privilege to be able to share my thoughts with you all this Christmastide. I was speaking to a friend who was not looking forward to celebrating this Christmas. A year ago, he had a fantastic Christmas party with friends and family, but this Christmas, he wished it would pass away quietly. Probably many people feel that way. Within a space of 12 months over 50,000 people have passed away attributed to Covid 19 in our country and that means an equivalent number of families will be going through this Christmas without their loved ones. A death toll in peace time significantly proportional to some of the horrific deaths reported in many war zones. Besides, how do we celebrate Christmas when so many are worried about their jobs and businesses?

A world of tribulations

Christians are often reminded that in our fallen world, we would encounter tribulations and God's people will not be immune to such dangers and fears. Some of the challenges recorded in the Old Testament prompted God to speak to assure His people through his prophet Isaiah "Comfort O, comfort my people". He sent His Son, Emmanuel – (God with us) as part of Himself, to physically walk the earth. That baby in the manger was God and He is still with us today.

The sovereign Lord, the Comforter is with us

The very fact that our Lord took on flesh with such humility to bear pain like us and to become our High Priest in the throne room of Grace – That in itself is very comforting. In our challenges, He made a call to his Father to send a Comforter to walk along with us – somebody with greater strength to uplift us and strengthen us. God's people can never walk alone in any valley because our Comforter the Holy Spirit is always the Wind beneath our wings.

Love, Hope and Caring – this Christmas

Let us approach this Christmas with Hope, Love and Caring for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ***Let this peace rest with us this Christmas.***

A new year of hope

One can already see a light at the end of the tunnel. It is our hope in Christ that the new year will bring greater tidings as is said in His word:

I will restore to you the years that the locusts have devoured (Joel 2:25).

Stay blessed and Merry Christmas to you all and may God's peace and riches enfold you.

Amen

Stephen (Appiah)

Dear Friends

GOOD NEWS!



Trinity will re-open once more for Sunday Morning Worship on 6 December at 10.30 am, when it will be Local Arrangements. We look forward to welcoming you back.

As before, it would be helpful if you could **register by the preceding Thursday of the Sunday service you wish to attend.** Thank you.

To register: Please call me on ☎: 01256 320429 or email me at: dianeath51@gmail.com

Please stay safe and be blessed.

Diane, Senior Steward

KNITTED ANGELS

Can you knit and do you have some spare wool lying around. We were hoping that we could do some knitted angels to go to the playgroup this Christmas, along similar lines of the stars we did last year. Any colour angel acceptable.

If you are interested then please contact Jennifer on ☎: 01256 816314 or at pitt@btinternet.com and we can get a pattern to you.



Many thanks, **Jennifer and Edna**

*Christmas Greetings and
Very Best Wishes to
All our Trinity
Friends.*



*I'm sure, in these different
times, we would All like to
wish each other a
Very Happy and Peaceful
Christmas and New Year.*



Christmas Cards 2020



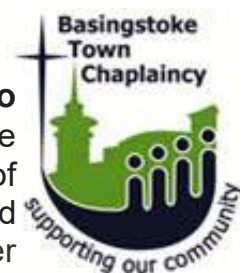
With regret, we are unable to have the usual "Christmas post box" at Trinity this year. Please do not leave cards at Trinity because they will not be delivered. Sorry.

(Tony Pitt)

*June, Martin and Pamela send
everyone Christmas blessings and
wishes for a safe and happy new year.*

Chaplain for the Bus Station

The Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy is looking to recruit a Chaplain to serve the Basingstoke Bus Station. This is a great opportunity to take God's presence into a busy working environment where there are plenty of opportunities to mingle with drivers, management and staff. There are around 120 drivers who come and go at different times, plus management and other staff.



Malcolm Read has been the Chaplain for over 11 years and has always been welcomed. He has committed himself to visiting the bus station weekly on Wednesdays, usually for about an hour. Sometimes he meets with some employees out of hours, perhaps over a coffee when they wish to talk further, sharing his faith where appropriate and praying for them. He is now looking for a successor to take up the reins as he is now into his 80s. Should you feel God may be calling you for a new mission experience, Malcolm would welcome you to accompany him on one of his weekly visits to see how it all happens. No commitment at this stage. Please contact the Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy by email at: admin@basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk or call / text Malcolm on ☎: 07770 872359.

(Ian Harrison is a Trustee and would love to hear from anyone interested in becoming a Chaplain or Trustee at: ian.b.harrison@btinternet.com or ☎: 01256 326081.

Useful Trinity Contacts, phone numbers & emails:

Church Office: ☎: 01256-816173
email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net

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Church Contact / Senior Steward: Diane Bath –
☎: 01256 320429 / e-mail: r_bath@sky.com

* * * * *

Bookings / Car Parking: Contact: Sue Doust –
☎ 01256 229456 / e-mail at: rogerdoust@aol.com

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Church Treasurer: David Gunton –
☎: 01256 352342 / e-mail: david@gunton.org

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Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website:
www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

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Basingstoke & Reading Circuit is a
Registered Charity, Charity number: 1134891

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Trinity Methodist Church is a Registered Charity,
the Charity number is 1128299

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New Beginnings

God loves New Beginnings.

Do you ever feel like you need
a New Beginning?

That's exactly how I was feeling
not too long ago. I was tired
and frustrated. A little
disoriented, spiritually disgusted
with some of the things
happening in the world, and
around us, by so many
situations that I could do
nothing about.

I probably needed to recite the
'**Serenity Prayer**' about a
thousand times:

*'God grant me the
Serenity to accept the
things I cannot change;
Courage to change the
things I can, and
Wisdom to know the
difference.'*

But I did not have the courage
to do even that. I just ignored
all these feelings and tried to
keep busy. But ignoring things,
they don't go away. I finally
realised I needed a
New Beginning.

One thing I love about our God,
is that our God is a God of
Fresh Starts and
New Beginnings.

Jesus is the Ultimate
New Beginning !

Fay Aird

An Encouragement for Prayer !

Live wisely among those who are not Christians,
and make the most of every opportunity.

Let your conversations be gracious and effective,
so that you will have the right
answer for everyone.

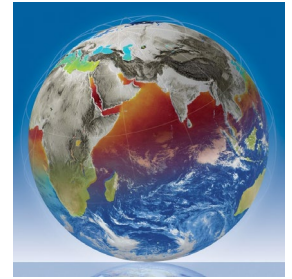
Colossians 4, v 5

Sent in by Fay Aird

400 years ago, on 21 December 1620 the first landing party from the British ship Mayflower arrived at what would become Plymouth Colony (now Plymouth Massachusetts).

They began building houses there two days later.

Eco-Church



The Basingstoke and Reading Circuit is working towards certification as an Eco-Circuit, which implies that at least some of the Churches in the Circuit achieve Eco-Church certification. While Trinity hasn't (yet!) agreed to work towards this, it's worth explaining briefly what it means.

A Rocha, the organisation behind Eco-Church, describes it as follows:

Your Church, caring for God's Earth.

The science is clear. Our Planet is in trouble. Climate change threatens the delicate equilibrium that sustains life and biodiversity is collapsing around the globe. We must act now if we are to leave our children a planet worth inheriting.

There is still a glimmer of hope. God chooses to use His people in His redemption story. We have a part to play.

Eco Church is A Rocha's tool to help your church celebrate what you already do well and make informed decisions about what to do next.

Through this programme we are encouraged to think, both as a Church and as individuals, about our impact on the planet, in 5 key areas – Worship & Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global Engagement, and Lifestyle. You are likely to hear more about this over the coming months (and years!) in Services, meetings and in the Newsletter, but in the meantime, I encourage you to think and pray about your impact on the planet.

Tony Pitt and Peter Ansell

Eco Circuit:

***A message from
Revd David Shaw:***

We are looking to create a team who will guide the Circuit through the process of becoming an Eco Circuit.

Presently Peter Frank and David Shaw are signed up.

If you would be interested in joining this team please contact David Shaw at: david.shaw@methodist.org.uk

It is a chance for us to make a difference for God's amazing planet.

Thank you. God bless

An Advent Resource Hopes, Fears & Blessings



This lovely Circuit Resource came out by email with the weekly Circuit Notices on Wednesday 25 November but can also be found on our Circuit Website. There will be printed copies available for those without computer access. It has beautiful, thought-provoking pieces in it, some with a twist on Lockdown and the different times we have all been experiencing. If you haven't yet had time to dip into it, you won't be disappointed when you do. You'll be inspired by the pieces written by many folk in our circuit, and all so beautifully presented. Thank you, to all of you. *Ed*

- Believe in God and you'll believe in miracles. Believe in the baby of Bethlehem, and you'll experience one – *Anon*

ADVENT CONVERSATIONS, PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP

Basingstoke Methodist Churches

*Many of you may be looking forward to the season of 'Advent' beginning on Sunday 29th November. We are offering four weeks of Advent reflections, prayer and fellowship **via Zoom**, and all six churches and their friends are invited to journey together and share in this period of "Advent". There will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to share and to interact.*

Leader: Stephen Appiah	Leader: Revd David Jenkins
Week 1: Wed 25 th Nov – 7 pm to 8 pm	Week 1: Thurs 26 th Nov – 2 pm to 3 pm
Week 2: Wed 2 nd Dec – 7 pm to 8 pm	Week 2: Thurs 3 rd Dec – 2 pm to 3 pm
Week 3: Wed 9 th Dec – 7 pm to 8 pm	Week 3: Thurs 10 th Dec – 2 pm to 3 pm
Week 4: Wed 16 th Dec – 7 pm to 8 pm	Week 4: Thurs 17 th Dec – 2 pm to 3 pm

*All are invited to join any of the sessions
(everyone will be most welcome at both sessions):*

Week 1: HOPE — Week 2: PEACE — Week 3: LOVE — Week 4: JOY



*The Zoom Link (and telephone numbers) will be sent out nearer the time,
so keep an eye out !*

Circuit Gazebo

Yvonne Hunt has purchased a Circuit Gazebo, it measures 2.4m x 2.4m and comes with a handy carry bag. If anyone would like to use it, it is available. I am currently using it on a Friday 12 pm to 4 pm but other than that it's free for use.

Yvonne Hunt: Children, Families and Young People Outreach Worker; Basingstoke Methodist Churches, Yvonne's Mobile: ☎: 07462 040644.



'There, there dear ...' A recent poll has found that the over-60s often face patronising, though usually well-meant, comments from the younger generation. One older woman was amused, when going into a shop before Christmas, to be met by a younger assistant who asked, 'And how are we doing so far today?' 'I suspect she had taken one look at me and decided that I was lucky to have even made it alive to lunchtime!'

This did tickle my sense of humour, Ed

Live Streamed Services, resources & information: Please click on link to its live streamed services and useful links and resources. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Wesley Church (Reading) Online Services – Video's & Texts: If anyone wishes to access past Services from Wesley, please click on the following link: <https://www.wesleychurchreading.org>

Coronavirus Guidance & Updates: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/>

GOD KNOWS!

When you are tired and discouraged from fruitless efforts ...
 God knows how hard you have tried.

When you've cried so long and your heart is in anguish,
 God has counted your tears.

If you feel that your life is on hold and time has passed you by,
 God is waiting with you.

When you're lonely and your friends are too busy even for a phone call ...
 God is by your side.

When you think you've tried everything and don't know where to turn ...
 God has a solution.

When nothing makes sense and you are confused or frustrated ...
 God has the answer.

If suddenly your outlook is brighter and you find traces of hope ...
 God has whispered to you.

When things are going well and you have much to be thankful for ...
 God has blessed you.

When something joyful happens and you are filled with awe ...
 God has smiled upon you.

When you have a purpose to fulfil and a dream to follow ...
 God has opened your eyes and called you by name.

Remember that wherever you are or whatever you are facing ...
 God knows!

Sent in by Anne Rowe

A Couple of Poems sent in by Pat Murphy

Kneel and Worship this
 baby so small,
 He is Jesus, King of Kings and
 Lord of all,
 He came for you, and
 He came for me.
 To bring us Salvation and set us free.
 What a wonderful gift from our
 Father above,
 Given so freely and given with love.

Pat Murphy

So precious is your Word to me,
 It encourages me, and sets me free.
 Your Word is powerful and strong.
 And helps me as I go along.
 Your Word guides me and gives me peace,
 And from Life's trials Brings release.
 Your Word is good, and strong and true,
 And brings me closer to you.
 Your Word brings warmth into my heart,
 As you yourself to me impart.

Pat Murphy

“A Child of God”

Father you know everything about me
 You know who I really am, on the inside
 I can hide the real me from others,
 But never from you.

Sometimes I wonder Father, Who am I?....Then you remind me
I am a child of God
Loved and accepted for who I am.

Father you know when I sit and when I rise
 You know when I am putting off the things that need to be done
 In favour for time spent in front of the TV, Computer or with friends.
 You know that I have good intentions
 And you know that I often fail in these.

Sometimes I wonder Father, Who am I?....Then you remind me
I am a child of God
Loved and accepted for who I am

Father you know what is happening in my day
 And you know how I will react, even before I do
 You know my habits and my values
 And the impact these have on others.

Sometimes I wonder Father, Who am I?....Then you remind me
I am a child of God
Loved and accepted for who I am

Father you know what goes on in my head,
 You know the words I am about to say and even those that remain as thoughts.
 You know when I have to bite my tongue in conversations
 And you know the verbal battles I have with myself.

Sometimes I wonder Father, Who am I?....Then you remind me
I am a child of God
Loved and accepted for who I am

Father so often I think about the person I am versus
 the person you want me to be.

I struggle that people don't see the real me,
 but am also thankful that they don't.
 Help me to strive to be more like you,
 seeing the good in myself as well as in others.
 But most of all Father help us to remember that
 we are your child who is loved and accepted
 exactly as we are.

Amen

Jennifer Pitt



Trinity & the other Basingstoke Churches – Plan for December 20 – February 21

Churches	6 Dec 2 nd of Advent	13 Dec 3 rd of Advent	20 Dec 4 th of Advent	27 Dec 1 st of Christmas	3 Jan 2 nd of Christmas	10 Jan 1 st in Ord time	17 Jan 2 nd in Ord time
Trinity 10.30 am * * * * * 4.00 pm	LA	Whithorn	Browne S * * * * * Zoom Carol Ser 4 pm	Zoom Service 10 am	Browne	Rowe	Browne Cov Serv
Kempshott 10.30 am	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom
Oakley 10.30 am * * * * * 4.00 pm	Browne S	T Bennett	Zoom Carol Service 4 pm	Zoom Service for BMC	-	Browne	-
Oakridge 11.00 am	Turner	LA	Frank	Zoom Service for BMC	Shaw	Baugh	LA
Old Basing 10.30 am	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Andrew's 10.30 am * * * * * 4.00 pm	Hoe	Browne S	Zoom Carol Service 4 pm	Zoom Service for BMC	-	Whithorn	-
Churches	24 Jan 3 rd in Ord time	31 Jan 4 th in Ord time	7 Feb 5 th in Ord time	14 Feb Sunday before Lent	21 Feb 1 st in Lent	28 Feb 2 nd of Lent	
Trinity 10.30 am	Barrie Davies	Shaw	Pitt / Walker	Browne S	Ansell, Worship Leaders S	Turner	
Kempshott 10.30 am	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	
Oakley 10.30 am	-	Browne Cov Serv	Moffoot	-	Browne S	-	
Oakridge 11.00 am	Coomber	Midcalf Cov Serv	T Bennett	LA	Whithorn	Coomber	
Old Basing 10.30 am	-	-	-	-	-	-	
St Andrew's 10.30 am	Browne S	-	Browne Cov Serv	-	Turner	Browne	

Basingstoke
foodbank

Share the joy of Christmas



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

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

- Cake, ideally Christmas or yule log
- Pudding, ideally Christmas or a chocolate version
- Box mince pies, apple pies, etc
- Box of chocolates
- Box or nice packet of biscuits
- Hot drink, eg coffee, tea, hot chocolate
- Tinned meat, eg ham, chicken, mince, pork
- Tinned tuna
- Cooking sauce, eg curry sauce, pasta sauce
- Packet of seasonal, dried stuffing
- Tinned fruit
- Custard
- A nice jar of jam and/or pickle
- Toiletries
- Christmas Crackers (2 per box)



"There are no words I can write to say how much my hamper was appreciated that I received from your church and your members. The items inside helped me a great deal over the festive season".

We would also welcome contributions of food items for hampers.

Please bring your hamper or food items to us at Festival Place (Upper Floor beside Next) between 10am and 5pm on Monday to Saturday from Wednesday 2nd December until Saturday 19th December. If you would like to help to assemble hampers, please call or email us using the details below.

Contact details for Basingstoke Foodbank Christmas hampers are:

Email: Abigail@comptonburnett.com

Telephone: 07747-111336

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



COVID 19 UPDATE:



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

Our foodbank relies on Your Goodwill and Support. Monetary Donations big or small are also gratefully received.

Check out our Website at: <https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>
Also on Our Website, you will find the list of locations & times where you can donate food:
Locations are: Tesco Chineham; Annies Charity Shop Winklebury; Sainsburys Tadley; Co-operative Food Old Basing; Londis Sheffield on Loddon; Co-operative Food Rooksdown; Waitrose Basing View; Asda Brighton Hill and Lidl Worting Road.

- ‘Sainsburys has kindly placed a permanent crate for Foodbank donations at their store in Kempshott. Thank you for supporting our Foodbank clients – on their behalf can we say how grateful we are for every donation!’

Basingstoke Foodbank: VIVID Housing have made available part of their building on Houndmills for six months, so the whole operation has been moved there for the moment. The address is: 63-64 Tempus Business Centre, Kingsclere Road, Houndmills, RG21 6XG (behind Vivid’s Main Basingstoke Office). At this time there is no process in place for the transfer of donations from Trinity to the new site, so please do not leave donations at Trinity. In time we expect to arrange for small donations to be taken to the new site, but not yet.) Thanks,

Tony P



At present, (as at 26.11.20) the Foodbank is particularly short of: (taken from the Foodbank website):

- Savoury Spreads
- Fruit Juice
- Rice Pudding
- Desserts
- Custard
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Tinned Fruit
- Men and Ladies Deodorant
- **Including:** Fresh Veg; Bread & Eggs



The Foodbank has plenty of:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| • Baked Beans | • Biscuits |
| • Tea, Fruit Teas | • Rice |
| • Kidney Beans | • Pasta |
| • and other Tins of Pulses | • Soup |
| • Toilet Rolls | • Tinned Fish |

WE’VE RECEIVED A COMMUNITY PROJECT AWARD AND A COVID HERO AWARD IN ‘A PLACE TO BE PROUD OF AWARDS 2020’

20 July 2020: The Place to be Proud of Awards are organised by Destination Basingstoke, and we are absolutely delighted to be one of three finalists for the Community Project Award out of 8 nominated charities. We were also nominated as one of the ‘COVID-19 Heroes’ for our exceptional efforts throughout this crisis. Can we take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all our volunteers for working so hard through the last few months, rising to challenge after challenge and always with a smile and cheerful disposition. You are all heroes! **Very well done to everyone at the Basingstoke Foodbank.**

A Couple of Dates for your Diaries

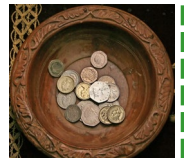


**Service of Carols and Nine Lessons
Sunday 20 December 2020 at 4.00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day service
Friday 25 December 2020 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Both services available on Zoom.
Details will follow later.**

Trinity Collections



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

We would like to express our thanks to those who contribute by Standing Order, and those who have made contact to continue their regular giving via monthly envelopes.

We would like to remind you all that there are a number of ways that you can contribute financially to God's work at Trinity and we would particularly welcome any donations at this time.

If you need more information as to how you can give to Trinity, please contact David Gunton (Treasurer) – david@gunton.org or 01256-352342 or Tony Pitt (Gift Aid and Envelope Secretary) – organista@btinternet.com or 01256-816314.

20 years ago, on 13 December 2000 George W Bush finally claimed the US presidency, 36 days after the election was held, following a legal battle over disputed votes in Florida.

This has a familiar ring to it ! Ed

* * * * *

2020 marks the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Beethoven on 16 December 1770.

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

To Autumn

Rarely does Autumn begin without someone quoting “Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”. I don’t know how many people know the rest of the poem.



The poem focuses on several aspects of autumn. It captures moments and gives a sense of time progressing. The first stanza (verse) concentrates on the moist ripening of early autumn. It is warm – autumn is conspiring with the sun to do more than present pretty pictures. The season is productive, yielding ripe fruit and nuts and hinting at stocks of honey. The appeal is to all the senses and I am sure we can chime in with the lazy warmth of an autumn which seems to offer permanent extended summer.

The second stanza opens with a question whose response personifies the season. The moisture of the first stanza is replaced by a drier harvest. There is a sense of relaxation; this is certainly not a frantic harvest time. The torpor is almost drug-induced as the poppies create a feeling of lethargy. The reference to the gleaner balancing baskets of grain on her head recalls the story of Ruth. The apples too yield an alcoholic “cider” which numbs any sense of urgency. It is a time to be patient and to allow time to pass a time not to strive but just to be.

The third stanza moves on to consider the sounds of the season. It looks forward to Spring – but dismisses the idea of moving on, preferring the sounds of autumn. However, time is passing. The harvest is complete, the fields now showing stubble. The gnats’ choir is mournful as the summer is over. Days are drawing in. There are beautiful sunsets “Barred clouds bloom”, the stubble is tinged with “rosy hue”, lambs that were born in spring are now “full-grown” and bleat loudly. In the final two lines we look back on the start of autumn when the swallows gather and leave our shores and forward to Christmas with the robin who “whistles from the garden croft.”

Keats has captured the complexity and ambiguity of the season and supplied us with a hymn of praise to our creative God.

Charmian E Harrison (3/11/20)

A piece that Charmian wrote for the Wednesday Fellowship and printed with permission.



Peter Ansell’s great-grandmother wrote poetry in 1915 during WW1 for her 5 sons: here are just 3 of the 16 verses she wrote. Printed with permission.

1. I’m thinking of my first born,
My noble brave marine,
Who wore the blue and scarlet
Before he was seventeen.
2. Oh, Freddy, how I think of you
At night while others sleep
And you are on a battleship,
A-sailing on the deep.
16. May God protect my five sons,
And should he call you home,
When your spirit soars to heaven,
May you hear the voice, “Well Done”. (June 5th 1915)

Reculver

High on a cliff, 3 miles from Herne Bay in Kent, stand two towers.

They are all that now remains, of a 12th century monastic church.

The church of St. Mary's, served the people of 'Reculver' a small area on the Kent coast, high above the town of Herne Bay. Previously a Roman fort occupied this ground, now as history rolls on, the towers stand alone, alongside the ruins of former dwellings.



How long will they remain? This is in question for the site owned by English Heritage, and administered by Canterbury Council. Now threatened by the sea, they look so strong, yet they are vulnerable.

The waves crash below the towers, relentlessly they beat against the rocks, ever encroaching on the shore. Huge rocks are placed to resist the pounding which never stops, and a very narrow tape, running along past the towers, suggests danger to the unwary. A path, approximately 3 feet wide, runs alongside, but this also suggests disaster.

The towers are a navigational aid for shipping. In addition to being a well-known landmark it is a place of memories for me.

Over 60 years ago, my young man (who would become my husband) and I, hired a tandem, to ride the three miles from Herne Bay, to 'Reculver.'

Have you ever ridden a tandem? It is not as easy as it sounds.

The main thing is co-operation. Without it, speed, direction, and balance, cannot be achieved. This is particularly true, for the backseat rider. I must confess, I did not immediately understand this concept. So after being told, not to try to be in control, several times, I accepted this was how it was.

It was, as I recall a really lovely ride, but we did not attempt a tandem ride again, Moral, 'know your limitations' it helps for good relationships!

On a recent visit to 'Reculver', this time in a car, with my family, I realised how patient God is with us. The young impulsive 'me' has hopefully been replaced by a more thoughtful person. I leave you to judge.

The Holy Spirit helps on our journey of faith, guiding, listening, and caring every moment of the way, yet so often we stand perilously near the cliff edge. Even with all the experiences we have had, we still choose the wrong path.

The Psalmist says, "I waited patiently for the Lord. He turned to me, and heard my cry. He lifted me up, out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock, and gave me a firm place to stand. (Psalm 40)

cont'd.....

cont'd.....

I have only to follow his direction, speed, and control. If I do less, I find myself needing rescue from the dangerous rocks, and stormy seas.

In these days of uncertainty, we need to know, that he has our lives in the 'palm of his hand' whatever happens, and wherever we go.

Turning away from 'Reculver' we headed back to a cosy home, and a warm cup of tea.

Memories are wonderful, but so is today, tomorrow, and however many days the Lord grants us, Let us use them well. God bless you.

Margaret Garland

Gifts for Life

Have you ever struggled for ideas of what to buy someone for Christmas or for a Birthday? Many charities offer '**Gifts for Life**' as an option, as a gift for someone or for you to give one yourself. **All We Can (previously the Methodist Relief & Development Fund)** has a number of choices of '**Gifts for Life**' that you can give, at a range of different prices. **For example:**

- £14 could help a family in Ethiopia set up their own honey business to support their family.
- £15 could provide 15 chickens to kick-start a business helping vulnerable families in Zimbabwe build a livelihood that will enable them to pay for healthcare and their children's education.
- £16 could help provide two families in Zimbabwe with tools, including a watering can, garden fork and hoe to start growing vegetables, enabling the families to grow more food, providing a more nutritious diet and an income they can depend on.
- £30 could help a vulnerable family in Ethiopia start a kitchen garden, by providing vegetable seeds and tools, including a watering can.
- £31 can help a young woman in Uganda start her own sewing business, providing training and materials needed to learn how to sew and manage her new business.
- £52 could provide a vulnerable family in Zimbabwe with a goat. Goats not only provide milk, their manure is excellent for compost, increasing the amount of food a family can grow and ensuring a nutritious diet.
- £66 could provide a child in Uganda with a bicycle, ensuring they can make the (often very long) journey to and from school safely. Bicycles are also a lifeline to families, helping them travel to markets and access health centres.



These are just a few examples. But there are many more and similar ideas can be found at other charities such as: Christian Aid, Karibuni, Water Aid, Leprosy Mission, to name but a few.

Growth is not the product of effort, but of life – *Augustus Strong*

H O P E

St Andrews Methodist Church

Western Way, South Ham

Basingstoke



You are invited to come and rest for a while and watch and listen to
The Christmas Story
on the following days and times

Monday 21 December 2020 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.

Tuesday 22 December 2020 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.

*Wednesday 23 December 2020 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

***The Mug and Biscuit will be open from 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. but access to the display will not be possible**

Thursday 24 December 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

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



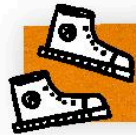
FREE MINCE PIES



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



In Jesus Christ heaven meets earth and earth ascends to heaven – Anon



Walkabout Nativity

**An immersive walking tour
through scenes of the nativity**

- Families walk around zones, where church members play the part of characters from the nativity story.
- This is a proven activity from previous normal Christmases, when schools would be invited to attend during the school day, with families visiting after school or at the weekend.
- With this event, children can experience the nativity characters as flesh and blood from the authentic Gospel accounts (rather than caricatures in school nativity plays). Memories are made.
- During this Covid Christmas season this script could be used either for a carefully managed in person event or as a pre-recorded film to distribute to families and schools in your community.
- Families move around the five stations listed below. These could be in a churchyard, a village green or park, an empty church carpark or inside a church building – or a mixture of locations. If outdoors, think about getting a gazebo for each station in case it rains. The number of stations could be reduced to four to simplify.
- At each station, the family/school group will collect a letter (or letters) that they will write down on their tablet or a piece of paper they have been told to bring. (To comply with Covid restrictions, our characters won't hand out anything at all).
- The letters, when rearranged, will spell 'I-MM-A-NU-EL'. The idea is to figure out what that really means. Joseph will tell them at station 5, at the end of their journey.



Circuit Prayer Card for 2020 - 21

The Methodist Conference has declared 2020/2021 "a year of prayer so that our Church-wide commitments to evangelism, church growth, church at the margins, and pioneering and church planting will flow from a deep, contemplative orientation to God's grace and love." <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/year-of-prayer/>



Praying the breakthrough prayer from the Methodist Connexion; a prayer for God to break through in the life of our churches:

God of love, God for all,
 your purposes are more beautiful than we can possibly
 imagine.
 Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
 Help us let go of all that holds us back.
 Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of humility
 and faith, of change and growth.
 Shake us up with the Good News of Jesus and show us the
 way. Amen

* * * * *

- **Attention** – with a number of relatives visiting, I was struggling to get my wife's attention. So, I simply sat down and looked comfortable. That did the trick.

“Nourished & Fed, Ready to Share”

Please pray

- ... for ministers and circuits involved in stationing
- ... for the Church as it as it discovers new ways to express the truth about Jesus
- ... that churches will establish new small groups, and that existing ones are reinvigorated
- ... that we will explore hospitality and caring for one another in challenging times
- ... that we may create safe spaces where each of us will feel able to share from the heart
- ... for increased confidence and courage to share our stories with others
- ... for someone you know whom you want to tell about Jesus
- ... for a breakthrough in this fragile life so that Christ can be shared

The text we have chosen for Dwelling in the Word is

Luke 11: 1 - 13

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.



* * * * *

- Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around – *Anon*

*A Prayer Walk**What is Prayer Walking:*

It's as simple as it sounds. A prayer walk is a way of actively praying whilst walking in a location that has significance for the subject of your prayers, such as praying for your local neighbourhood or community. It is a practical way of focussing your prayer, and you may find that you become more sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

*How do I do a prayer walk?*

- *You could head outdoors for a physical walk around your neighbourhood, make it a 'virtual' walk using Google Earth or a local street map, or you could simply imagine a route in your mind.*
- *You could plan your route in advance or simply ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.*
- *You could walk alone (if it is safe to do so) or go with a socially distanced group.*
- *You could pray silently or aloud. You might like to take a Bible or a passage of Scripture with you.*

Start with a moment of quiet, dedicating your prayer walk to God. Invite the Holy Spirit to be present with you as you journey out.

As you set off, and during your walk be aware of your surroundings, use your senses to look, listen, smell and touch. Be attentive to what God might be saying to you. Focus on those living in your neighbourhood and try to be intentional about praying for what you see and hear. Try to focus on what God's plans and purpose might be for your neighbourhood and the people who live and work there.

'Your Kingdom come, your will be done...'

Prayer Walk

Here are some ideas for prayer during your walk:

Pray for your neighbours as you walk past their houses

Pray for the staff in local shops or restaurants

Pray for the staff and pupils at your local school

Pray for key workers living and working in your neighbourhood

Pray for local amenities such as libraries

**After the Prayer Walk**

- *You might like to make a written record of your experience and how God might have spoken to you.*
- *Give thanks to God.*
- *Share your experience with others.*
- *Repeat the Prayer Walk and keep praying!*



*Lord of our windswept lives, shelter us today in the lee of your presence, still our blustering insecurities, our stormy protests, our billows of indignation, our squalls of regret. Give us harbour time in the deep, calm safe water of your grace and love. **Amen.***

(Barbara Glasson The Methodist Church Prayer Handbook 2020/2021)

- The Word of God, Jesus Christ, on account of His great love for mankind, became what we are in order to make us what He is Himself – *Irenaeus*

**From our current Methodist Prayer Handbook, 2020 – 2021
'The Earth is the Lord's'**

Dear Lord,
Earth is a world of water,
Earth is a special place,
Earth is a mind-blowing miracle,
Earth is truly ace.

Forgive us for our sins
and let us rise, not fall.
Let us stand together and change
for the good of all.



Please help us save this beauty,
for there is only one.
Please help us save the planet,
Lord, help us change this wrong. Amen



Jimmy, pupil, Trinity and St Michael's C of E / Methodist Primary School, Croston

* * * * *

Aeons of chemistry, physics, biology
clay in your hands,
Awesome Potter.

Setting the stage for humanity's entrance
stone age to microchip, such
great potential.

No! More than 'a stage', Earth is a biosphere
throbbing and radiant with life,
cosmic jewel.

Cleanse us, remould us, technology
harnessed
rescue, restore and revive,
Awesome Potter.

Gwen Collins, United Church, Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2021 / 2022's Theme is: 'A Place for All'

Would you like to write a prayer for the next prayer handbook? As the Church strives to be God's people in a world changed by a global pandemic, we invite prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, penitence and resolve that, with God's help, we may recognise and repent of our exclusivity, and that then we may be reconciling, open to all and ready to listen to all voices equally. Together, we pray to become a more inclusive and diverse Church, creating communities of greater respect and compassion.

In addition to prayers on the theme of the Handbook **'A Place for All'**, we invite prayers of thanksgiving, adoration and confession and prayers on the themes of justice, times of life and times of day and the comforting presence of God for the opening pages of the Handbook.

Prayers must be no longer than 120 words. Please also email photographs that will help to bring our theme to life. Photographs with people in are particularly welcome. Photographs should be sent in their original size. Please provide a caption and state where the photograph was taken. **The deadline for submission of prayers and photos is:**

11 January 2021. Please send contributions to: prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk

Please also provide: your name, postal address and how you would like to be described.

Please read full submission guidelines at:

www.methodist.org.uk/prayerhandbook before sending in your contributions.

If you do not have internet access please post prayers to:

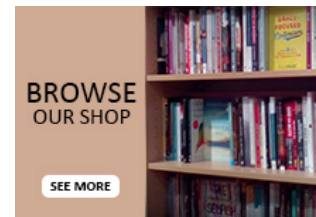
Prayer Handbook Editor, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

Please do not post photographs.

Shoemakers Christian Bookshop, Newbury

Shop with Shoemakers during lockdown: as you may have gathered, as a non-essential retailer here at Shoemakers we have had to close our physical shop. However, to pursue our mission, we are delighted to say that we will continue trading in every other way. You can shop with us in the following ways:

- **online** anytime at: www.christophershoemaker.org.uk
- **telephone** during our opening hours (Tuesday – Saturday: 9:30 am – 4 pm) on: ☎:01635 37836
- **email** anytime – office@christophershoemaker.org.uk
- **Facebook** messenger – visit us at: www.facebook.com/shoemakersbooks



Any orders will be posted or delivered to you. Please support your local Christian bookshop, we are here to serve you.

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

Meditation

In a Trinity magazine, Ann and David Winter asked what we had most missed during Lockdown. He felt it was **'touch'**, the most important of the senses. I found I agreed.

This got me thinking:

Jesus, You can never hug us physically. You cannot hold our hands.

We cannot hold yours and feel the impression of the nails.

We cannot touch you or see you, yet we know you are here with us.

We feel your presence and when we are feeling frustrated, fearful or unhappy, we have only to reach out and virtually touch the hem of your robe.

Your love is unfailing and unchangeable. No virus can separate us from that love.

If we keep in touch, we can find peace and joy in our life.

Therefore, though we cannot get very close to each other, and it will be a long time before we can hold hands or hug.

Yet we can keep in touch with each other and become a channel of his love for each other, remembering that he asked us to give especial care to the sick and vulnerable.

The church is not a building, it is a group of people trying to follow their master, supporting and helping each other along the path.

'All praise to our redeeming Lord, who joins us by his grace'

Heather Shepherd

'25 Crafts for Christmas', by Christina Goodings & Samantha Meredith, Bible Society £5.99

Here is a craft for every day of Advent, or just to keep your children entertained in the run up to Christmas. You can make decorations, your own Christmas cards, and a variety of gift boxes and trimmings. Suitable for age 3-7 years.

- Many Christians have so busied themselves with programmes and activities that they no longer know how to be silent and meditate on God's Word or recognise the mysteries

that are in the Person of Christ – *Ravi Zacharias*

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

Amazing Grace (Ephesians 2 vv 4 – 8)

We cannot comprehend the vastness of God's grace: it is higher than the hills, deeper than the deepest sea. We cannot fathom the depth, the height or the breadth of it. Grace is greater than all our sin. The reach of Grace is immeasurable for it is for all.

Grace liberates. By it we are set free from the chains that bind us – drugs, alcohol, pride, fear, jealousy, envy, strife, selfishness. In a sick world such as ours where the only answer is revival then we need the wonderful grace of God. Why do we allow all the things that cast us down and create chaos in our lives to enslave and imprison us, when the grace of God can set us free?

Grace pardons. We don't always find it easy to forgive or pardon someone who has done us an injury. But the grace of God is for all – no-one is beyond His redemption. He reaches out to the most defiled. His pardoning grace "so rich and free" was that which gave Saul of Tarsus the chance to change his life. It was the same grace that prompted Jesus to stop and talk to the woman of Samaria and offer her a new life, to give her a chance to become a new person. It was pardoning grace which said to the woman taken in adultery "I do not condemn you – now go and sin no more."

Grace forgives. "He was wounded for our transgressions", despised, rejected and forsaken – yet He could still pray

"Father forgive them,
they know not what they do."

Charles Wesley wrote (and we rejoice to sing):

Plenteous He is in truth and grace;
He wills that all the fallen race
Should turn, repent, and live;
His pardoning grace for all is free;
Transgression, sin, iniquity,
He freely doth forgive.

This has always been my Church's great emphasis: all may live for Christ has died.

Grace is a free gift. How we love receiving a gift (especially as there seems little today that doesn't have a cost somewhere.) But God's grace is a free gift. God doesn't give and then charge a price. He gives, we receive. And He gives, according to the riches of His grace. God offers salvation and eternal life to all who believe on His Son Jesus Christ. What a joy it is to be able to sing from our experience what, again, Charley Wesley knew:

How shall I thank Thee for the grace
On me and all mankind bestowed?
Oh, that my every breath were praise!
Oh, that my heart were filled with God!
My heart would then with love overflow,
And all my life Thy glory show.

This free grace is for all. Not one is denied.

Grace is sufficient. We read in 2 Corinthians 12 v 9 how St Paul had pleaded three times for the Lord to remove his "thorn in his flesh." God had said "No" and assured Paul that His grace

Amazing Grace, cont'd

was sufficient. How lovely to realise that although everything we ask for is not always granted He gives us the strength and courage to go on and by His grace to overcome.

As we move into each new day let us pray that we shall see the Spirit of God truly working in our midst and throughout the world, so that people will turn, hands outstretched and hearts open, to receive this freely given gift. What a turning back that would be to the God of such boundless grace!

This piece was written by Stella Rowland who is Revd John Rowland's mother and also a former member of our congregation at Trinity. It is taken from a book written by Stella Rowland 'God In The Everyday', and used with permission.

* * * * *

Canon Paul Hardingham –
'How the promise to King Ahaz is relevant today'
Hope amid Uncertainty

'Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)

This promise to King Ahaz in 8th century Judah is fulfilled in the coming of Jesus at the first Christmas: 'God with Us' (Matthew 1:23). Ahaz faced the military threat of Syria invading Israel, but Isaiah tells him not to panic. He can trust God, who is in control of the nation.

For us, Coronavirus brings deep uncertainty as we come to another New Year. We live with the threat from the virus, economic uncertainty, separation from family and friends, the loss of loved ones and the anxiety that isolation brings. Yet the message of Immanuel brings hope, as it did for Ahaz! Christmas changes everything forever! God has declared in Christ that He is with us and for us, not absent from or against us. His love is larger than our sin, fears or guilt: 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' (**Romans 8:31**).

As we prepare for the most unusual Christmas ever, let's not forget:

- **God with us means** that He is on my side and by my side. In the uncertainties of life I am never alone.
- **God with us means** that everything will work out according to His plan. My life isn't just a series of meaningless occasions or mistakes.
- **God with us means** that even when others show they are not there for me, God is.
- **God with us means** when circumstances change, He will give me the strength I need.
- **God is with me:** He isn't far away, but has made the journey into my world.

Here is the hope for the future, once we get past the trees, gifts, turkey, stuffing and pudding! (*Parish Pump*)

- Some of these new toys are so creative and inventive. This year they have a Neurotic Doll. It's wound up already.

Joseph and his Amazing Journey

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David. Luke 2 1-4



What a year we have had! But I suppose Joseph had had a demanding year as well. Having learned that his betrothed was pregnant due to divine intervention, he then learned of the Roman government's demand for a census.

These Bible verses show Joseph being a good citizen. Leaving home for a long journey in order to please the government would not have been welcome, but Joseph complied and obeyed the law.

This year the situation is reversed. Millions of us *want* to make a long journey, to visit our loved ones across the UK. But this year, because of coronavirus, the Government is asking us to stay at home.

The Romans had censuses for a good reason: to help them run the business of the empire. This Government has restrictions in place for a good reason: to help to slow the spread of a deadly virus.

Following government rules and laws it not always easy or pleasant but as Christians we should be good citizens. As always this is a light-hearted guide to a complicated subject. If you are going home for Christmas, get proper advice – and have a Merry one.

David Pickup, (Parish Pump)



Christmas Frustration ????



I said to God, upon my knees, "O Lord, I am so cross!
 "That gift I sent to Aunt Denise "within the post is lost!
 "That tree I bought for forty pounds, "(well, just a penny less)
 "Its needles lie upon the ground, "it looks a total mess!"

"I know," said God, "I understand, "I sent my Son, you know.
 "He came to Earth, just as I'd planned, "two thousand years ago
 "Was born within a stable bare - "the cattle heard Him cry
 "He spoke of love, men didn't care, "they led Him out to die."

"No gift was given with such love, "no higher price was paid.
 "He left His throne of light above, "for sin His life to trade.
 "But even after all these years, "this gift you men eschew,
 "So Christmas is a time of tears, "for Me, as well as you."

by Nigel Beeton, Parish Pump

He was a careful driver during the Christmas period.

At the railway crossing he stopped, looked and listened.

All he heard was the car behind him, smashing into his boot.

* * * * *

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

* * * * *

- A man rejects God neither because of intellectual demands nor because of the scarcity of evidence. A man rejects God because of a moral resistance that refuses to admit his need for God – *Ravi Zacharias*

Let's hear it for the Christmas Card!



A folded piece of Christmas cheer
came through the post today!
I love it when those cards appear
I love the things they say!

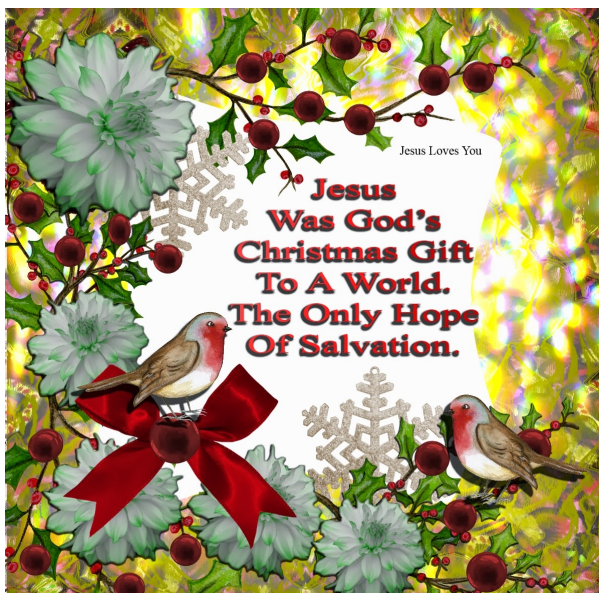
And at this busy Christmas time
I'm always glad to see
the Christmas scene or
Christmas rhyme
that you have sent to me.

The trouble that good people take
is really, really kind -
some people even sit and make
a card for me to find!

And in our virtual world of text
and pictures on a screen
these bits and bytes
leave me perplexed
if you know what I mean?

And so I think that it is fine
to see your kind regard
I can admire this Christmas time
your real Christmas card!

by Nigel Beeton (Parish Pump)



Christmas to Me

Christmas to me is nativity
and the sound of carol-singing;
but to others it is revelry
and the sound of shop tills ringing.

Christmas to me is shepherds
on a hillside attending their sheep;
and the sound of angelic voices
over a town bathed in sleep.

Christmas to me is the Magi
who put all of their faith in a star,
and in search of the little Christ child
they willingly travelled so far.

Christmas to me is worship
giving thanks for the Saviour's birth;
but to many of the folk I know
Christmas has no real worth.

So what will YOU see this Christmas?
Will you think of that baby so small?
And recognise that the love of God
came to earth that first Christmas of all?

by Colin Hammacott (Parish Pump)

Christmas Foretold

From untold glory to a manger of straw
Who could imagine such a thing?
From Eternity stepping down into Time
With very few to welcome Him in.

Mary and Joseph, shepherds and wise men,
In His mother's arms the Baby lies,
Scripture describes these amazing events
As prophecy unravels before our eyes

The Books of the Bible all tell of His coming
His life, His death, redemption's plan,
The King of glory revealed in God's Word
Touching our earth in the form of a Man.

by Megan Carter, Parish Pump

For the Young and not so Young

PUZ?LES

Crossword

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 2 verses 22-38

God promised the Jews that when times were bad, He would send a leader to save them. He told Simeon it would happen in his life time.

God told Simeon to go to the Temple.



He saw a couple with a baby.

Mary and Joseph had come to give their offerings for their first-born, Jesus, and for child birth.



Simeon held Jesus and praised God.



I can now die in peace because You have kept Your promise.



I have seen the one You have sent to save Your people and all the world!

Mary and Joseph were amazed! Simeon blessed them, but said..



This child will show what people are really like inside and this will mean pain for you as well.



Anna the prophet was also in the Temple.



Her family was from the north of Israel and she was very old.

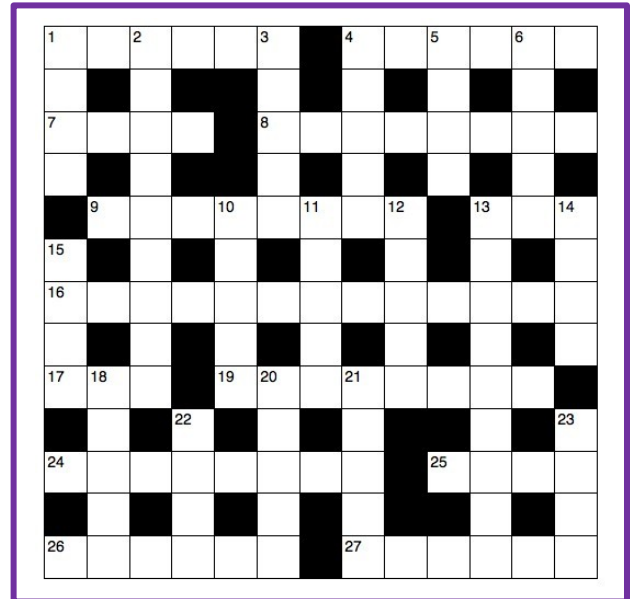


She spent every day praying in the Temple.

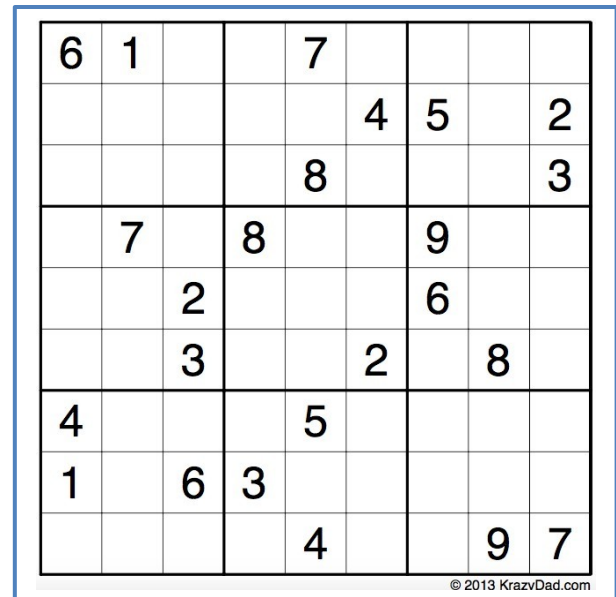
When she saw Jesus she praised God.



Anna spoke about Jesus to everyone who was waiting for God's Saviour.



Sudoku



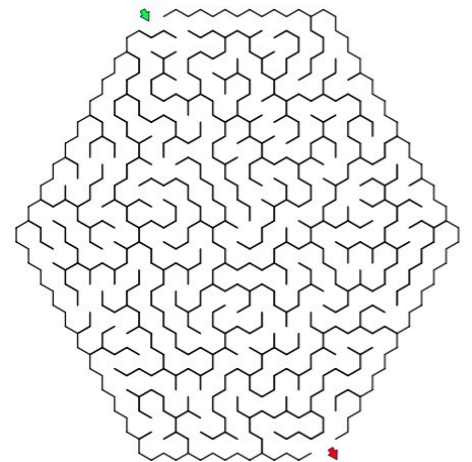
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Crossword Clues – Across:

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Crossword Clues – Down:

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)



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

Temple	baby	Anna	family
praised	offerings	prophet	lifetime
peace	inside	couple	Mary
Jesus	everyone	God	praying
Anna	people	Joseph	waiting
Israel	Saviour	leader	world

Wordsearch

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

Puzzle Pages Solutions

Sudoku Solution

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

Crossword Answers:



ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

Wordsearch Clues, Dec 20

Silent Night – this much-loved carol comes from Austria, and was first sung as *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. Written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg.

Silent	First	Christmas
Night	Sung	Version
Loved	Stille	Father
Carol	Nacht	Joseph
Austria	Heilige	Mohr
Young	Midnight	Single
Priest	Mass	Bing
Organist	Melody	Eve Third



A Quiz on 2020

1. Job applications from weirdos and misfits were invited from people to work at which place in London?
2. Which famous actor who died this year is associated with the phrase “I am Spartacus?”
3. In February the Church of England advised against the practice of ‘intinction’ – what is it?
4. In a world “where you can be anything, be _____” – what, wrote actress Caroline Flack on Instagram in December 2019?
5. What were we supposed to do in March while singing the National Anthem or Happy Birthday twice?
6. This year was a leap year. What do we call other years?
7. Which village in the Peak District is associated with self-isolation during a previous plague?
8. How long, literally, is quarantine?
9. Why did President Macron visit Britain on 18 July? What other Anglo-French anniversary could he have remembered but for some reason it was not mentioned?
10. How many countries launched space rockets to Mars this year?
11. Who, in their resignation letter in August, on Twitter posted, “I have championed our work, built our relationships and celebrated the diversity of our staff... and will always be an ambassador for the UK and the new Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office” after a four year career in Downing Street which had included scraps with a neighbour? He was going to spend more time with a family in the country.
12. Which day is the furthest away from Christmas Day?
13. What was the Battle of the Tennis Court and why was it remembered in August?
14. The BBC banned singing the lyrics from which song from the Last night of the Proms, because it had a link in their mind with slavery and colonialism?
15. This year marked the 400th anniversary of the voyage of the *Mayflower*. What event did they start which led to a public holiday?

Answers on the next page.

Why begin at midnight with Holy Communion?

The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence!

No one knows the real hour of His birth.

Certainly, in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its “domestic convenience” in 1947: “for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time.” (*So things don’t change, then!*)

Answers for Quiz on 2020

1. 10 Downing Street.
2. Kirk Douglas.
3. Dipping the communion wafer in wine.
4. "Be kind"
5. Wash our hands.
6. We call other years common years.
7. Eyam.
8. Quarantine is forty days long.
9. To commemorate De Gaulle's broadcast to France in 1940. It was also the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo.
10. The United States, Europe, Russia and China have all launched space rockets to Mars this year.
11. The Foreign Office cat, Palmerston.
12. Boxing Day (because you cannot travel backwards in time).
13. It was part of the Burma Campaign during the Second World War. It was remembered in August as part of VJ commemorations.
14. Rule Britannia. The decision was since reviewed.
15. Their celebration of harvest gave rise to Thanksgiving.



Picture

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw a picture of a Bible story with a Christmas theme.

She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an airplane.

She asked her which story it was meant to represent. 'The Flight to Egypt,' was the reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: 'That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?'

'Oh,' explained Kate happily, 'that's Pontius – the pilot!'