

MTC



Trinity E-News



Issue 9 / 21 Trinity's email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net November 2021



Our Minister is:
Rev'd Audrey D Browne
☎: 01256 323103
email:
padbrowne89@googlemail.com

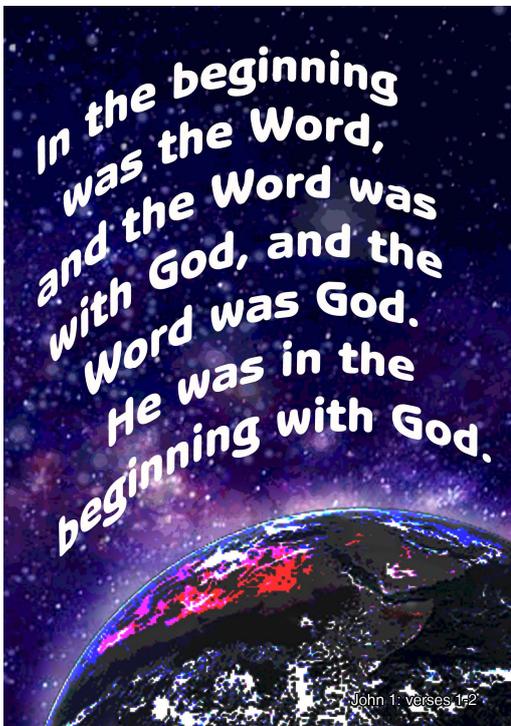


Great News –
Live Sunday
Worship is held
every Sunday at
Trinity and Services
are also Zoomed.

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

Link to our Website:

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



Inside this Issue	
2	Pastoral Letter, Rev'd Audrey D Browne
3	Sunday Services
4	Circuit Meeting Update
6 – 9	MAP for Trinity 2021
10	COP 26
11	ECO Church (Good) News
11	Recycle Spectacles
12– 14	Church Council Minutes
14	Prayer for our Town
15	Housegroups
15	Harvest Collection
16	Faces and Places
18	Advent Reflections – Open to All
21	Nigel has been busy !
22	The Body of Christ
26	COP 26 Conference
26-27	Prayers
30-32	Puzzle Pages

'Mission in Britain' & 'World Mission' Boxes

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

Trinity E-News – Deadline for Dec 21 & Jan 22 Double Issue is Saturday 20 November

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

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

Thank you again, Hazel, Ed

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

16B Portacre Rise, Basingstoke, RG21 1YQ.

November 2021

Dear Friends,

It seems like we have just blinked, and Advent is already around the corner again. For many of us, as soon as the calendar flips to November, it is quickly filled with things to do: shopping lists, commitments, and, unsurprisingly, stress. But what if this year we were to decide to simplify things so we could really enjoy the meaning of Christmas.

Intentionality is the practice of being deliberate and purposeful. Proverbs 14:8 says, “The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways.” Being intentional means that we slow down enough to enable us to determine whether something is worth saying or doing.

The four weeks before Christmas, *the season of Advent*, are full of joy and hope as we await the coming of Christ the King. Just as Lent prepares us for Easter, so Advent is a time for getting ready for the arrival of *God with us*. During Advent, the Church draws upon the prayers and longings of God’s people both in the Old and New Testaments. Advent invites us to identify with those who, long ago, waited for the Christ.

For me, the four weeks before Christmas is not a time for shopping, baking, buying presents, putting up decorations and writing cards (although of course, many people may want to do these things). Rather, Advent is a period of personal and corporate preparation. It is a time to reflect upon how to intentionally celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, in ways that remind us of Jesus’ historical coming, his coming again in glory, and to help us be more keenly aware of how Jesus comes to us in the unassuming and everyday encounters of life. I am always weary of the commercial and social pressures that compete for attention and distract more and more from the peace and promise of Christmas in the person of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 9:2 articulates the hope, peace, love, and joy, which Jesus’ coming brought into the world: “*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light, on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*” Isaiah predicted long ago before Jesus came into the world that

his *Salvation* would be a light for all people. This Season of Advent gives us a wonderful opportunity to pause for a moment, to ponder upon the coming of the eternal Son of God into the world to become that baby in that manger. God came to earth in Jesus so that he could be our sacrificial Lamb — to rescue us from sin and death, thus, fulfilling the long-awaited promise of God’s coming to his people.

This Advent we all can be intentional if we choose to. So I encourage us all to find our own unique rhythms of personal reflection and prayer, as we collectively journey together and rehearse once again the story of God’s coming into the world and into our lives.

During Advent, I hope to share some daily reflections with you via email to give us a tangible awareness of our collective journeying during Advent. I hope many of you will find them helpful. As we end this liturgical cycle only to start all over again, I leave you with a prayer before Advent:

Lord, Jesus our Saviour, the one who
is to come,
we come to you now.
Our hearts are cold;
Lord, warm them by your selfless love.
Our hearts are sinful;
cleanse them with your precious blood.
Our hearts are weak;
strengthen them with your joyous Spirit.
Our hearts are empty;
fill them with your divine presence.
Come, Emmanuel:
enter our lives,
possess them always,
and only for yourself.

St Augustine of Hippo (adapted)

Rev’d Audrey D Browne

*Don't worry about avoiding
temptation...as you grow older, it
will avoid you – Winston Churchill*

Church Worship at Trinity & the other Basingstoke Churches

The plan for Worship for November for our Basingstoke Churches is shown below. **Live Sunday Worship continues to be held at Trinity each Sunday Morning** and **Services are also Zoomed.**



Any enquiries please contact Diane Bath on: (☎: 01256 320429) or by email at: dianebath51@gmail.com Thank you.

Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Plan November 21 (*Basingstoke Churches*)

Sundays	7 Nov	14 Nov Remembrance Sunday	21 Nov Sunday before Advent	28 Nov Advent Sunday	5 Dec 2 nd Sunday in Advent
Trinity 10.30 am	Mr P Frank	Rev'd A Browne, S	LA	Mr T Pitt	Rev'd A Browne, S
Kempshott 10.30 am	Rev'd M Beukes, S	LA, Zoom	LA, Zoom	LA, Zoom	To be confirmed
Oakley 10.30 am	Mr T Rowell	Mr S Appiah	Rev'd A Browne, S	LA	To be confirmed
Oakridge 11.00 am	Rev'd D Jenkinis, S	LA	Mr S Turner	Mr T Bell	To be confirmed
Old Basing 10.30 am	LA	Rev'd D Jenkins, S	Mr T Bell	Mr P Frank	To be confirmed
St Andrew's 10.30 am	Rev'd A Browne, S	Mrs L Hoe	Mrs L Hoe	Rev'd A Browne	To be confirmed

- **The remainder of the services** for December and January will follow.
- In the meantime please make a note of the following dates:***
- **Sunday 19 December** – we have a Joint Carol Service at Trinity at 3 pm
- **Monday 20 December** – we have a Christingle Service at Trinity at 3 pm
- **Saturday 25 December** – we have a Joint Christmas Day Service at 10 am (*Please Note the Earlier Time for our Christmas Day Service*)
- **Sunday 26 December (Boxing Day)** – **NO** Service at Trinity
- **Sunday 2 January** – **Joint Service at St Andrew's**
- **Sunday 9 January** – **Joint Covenant Service at Trinity**



Special Birthday Wishes to:
Heather Shepherd
who Celebrates her 90th Birthday
on the 3 November
with love from all your Trinity Friends xx





Circuit Meeting Update

October 2021 (following the September Circuit Meeting)

It's Circuit Meeting Update time again! Please circulate around your congregation so they are aware of the latest news. For more detailed information about any of the items, please do contact the Circuit Meeting representatives in your congregation, or your minister or contact me.

Our Circuit Meeting on 15th September covered a very full agenda of business.

The meeting voted in favour of:

***A range of appointments** including Michael Parker as a new Circuit Steward, Terry Rowell as a continuing Circuit Steward and the reappointment of Margaret Hayes and Marianne Sales as Circuit Stewards for a further year. The Strategic Executive Group (SEG), Circuit Safeguarding Group, Synod Representatives, the Circuit Invitations GID (Get it Done group), the Legal Signatories and the Auditors were all appointed

***The updated Safeguarding Policy** including the definition of the 'temporary' period for which a minister can cover the role of Local Church Safeguarding Officer, as one year.

***Delegating responsibility to the Strategic Executive Group for the Circuit's response to the request from Conference for a financial contribution to the Pension Reserve Fund.** This followed a comprehensive discussion during the meeting.

***Grants** for work on property/grounds at Caversham Heights Methodist Church and Tadley Common Methodist Church.

***The decision of Caversham Gosbrook Road and Caversham Heights Methodist Churches to be one church on two sites.** This was both approved and affirmed.

There are also two pieces of news to highlight since the Circuit Meeting.

- 1) Following the formation in July 2021 of the five Missional Areas in the Circuit, please note the convenors of these groups below, together with email addresses that will automatically forward to the convenors.

Vision and Strategy

Ruth Midcalf and Margaret Hayes
vands@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

Youth and Children

Helen Watson and Martin Beukes
yandc@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

Worship, Preaching, Discipleship and Prayer

Audrey Browne and Maria Howard
wpdandp@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

EcoCircuit

David Shaw and Ruth Midcalf
ecoc@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

Resourcing and Community Engagement

Martin Beukes and Peter Frank
randce@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

- 2) Alan Harland will be stepping down from the role of Circuit Treasurer at the end of the connexional year. We are enormously grateful for all the work that Alan has done and will continue to do on our behalf. Please pray as we seek someone to fulfil this role.

Every blessing, Ruth Midcalf (Superintendent Minister)

Useful Trinity & Other Contacts, Phone Numbers & Emails:

Our Minister: Rev'd Audrey D Browne,
☎: 01256 323103 / **NEW** email address is:
padbrowne89@gmail.com

* * * * *

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

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

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

Church Property: Tony Pitt –
☎ 01256 816314 / email: organista@btinternet.com

* * * * *

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

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Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Website:
www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk

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

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

* * * * *

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

'Jesus And Me' ! (JAM)

'JAM' meets next from
2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

on the following Sundays:
5 December



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

All are very welcome.

Do come along and join us.

The Methodist Diary 2022

Available in Standard edition in
colours: Midnight Blue
and Summer Yellow.
Personal Organiser inserts also
available.

Order from the website at:
www.Methodistpublishing.org.uk/
or by email at:

publishing@methodistchurch.org.uk



#smalltalk with Revd David Shaw:

Wesley Methodist Church YouTube channel has a series of small
videos (46 as of counting) presented by Revd David Shaw which are
between 3 – 4 minutes long. The latest two are about Prayer and
Christian Aid. These can be found here and are highly recommended.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWw6jNpYWu4z52t760p7UJg/video>

Pastoral Meeting at Trinity

**At 2 pm on
Tuesday
2 November in
the Lounge.**

During the past nine months Trinity Methodist Church has been engaged in prayer, and conversations, to discern what kind of church God is calling us to be.

The culmination of this collaboration is a realistic mission action plan for the next six to twelve months. The plan will be regularly reviewed and further updates published in the Trinity Newsletter, so that everyone is kept informed. (Shown from pages 6 – 9)

Barbara, Jennifer and Diane

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, SARUM HILL, BASINGSTOKE – MISSION ACTION PLAN 2021

Priority	Activity	Person Responsible	Timescale	Fruits we hope to see	Long Term Objective
WORSHIP 1)	Offer a monthly Zoom evening Sunday Service in addition to our usual Sunday morning worship	Minister Stewards	Ongoing	Increase participation	Grow our Church
2)	Identify people willing to help with Zoom Sunday evening worship services	Jennifer Pitt	Now	Increase the number of people who can host a zoom service	Teach new skills
3)	Offer training for members who would like to host a zoom meeting or be more confident when using a laptop, tablet or i-phone	Michael Parker	Ongoing	New formats for Worship New Prayer Groups New Bible Study Groups	Grow small groups. Empowering our members to host small groups for which training and resources will be made available
4)	Continue to promote Joint Services with St Andrews	Stewards and Worship Group	Ongoing	Strengthen relationships and co-operation between our Churches	Binding the Circuit together as a team & participating with other Churches in our Circuit

OBJECTIVES ALREADY ACHIEVED

Item 1: We have a volunteer.

Item 2: We have a volunteer.

Item 3: Achieved and on the Plan.

If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished – Anon

**TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, SARUM HILL, BASINGSTOKE –
MISSION ACTION PLAN 2021**

Priority	Activity	Person Responsible	Timescale	Fruits we hope to see	Long Term Objectives
SERVICE					
1)	Provide a safe space for people in our community to meet and enjoy hospitality and friendship with the opportunity to share problems and/or prayers	Sue Doust and other volunteers	? depends on Covid and Methodist guidelines	Reducing loneliness in the community. Sharing our faith through actions. Increasing our profile within our community.	To increase inclusive hospitality. Long term this could grow by adding afternoon tea for those outside of our church or a meal for our congregation and friends who have a different faith or no faith.
2)	Draw up a plan on how this will work at Trinity	Sue and team	Mid Oct.	Enables everything to be in place plus a rota prior to opening our doors.	
3)	Produce a leaflet containing useful information	Barbara	Mid Oct.	Sharing useful contacts	Keeping people informed

OBJECTIVES ALREADY ACHIEVED



Dial-a-Prayer

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

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

Dear Friends

We have 3 blackberry Bushes (thornless) to give away.

Steve and Angela Smith



Trinity Circle

The next meeting of **Trinity Circle** is on **Tuesday 23 November at 7.30 pm.** We are having a flower arranging evening with Ann Walker and Janet Gunton. We will either be meeting in the lounge, Room 2 or the Main Hall. Everyone is welcome, **Sonia**

**TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, SARUM HILL, BASINGSTOKE –
MISSION ACTION PLAN 2021**

Priority	Activity	Persons Responsible	Timescale		Fruits we hope to see	Long Term Objective
EVANGELISM						
1)	Develop JAM and publicise more widely. Offer to other Churches Learning through fun and offering parental support.	Hilary, Yvonne & JAM team	? depends on Covid and Methodist Guidelines		Growing young disciples. Offer spiritual growth for the adults. Development of friendship groups. Increase our numbers.	Look for new ways to improve what we are doing. Consider offering early morning worship with breakfast for young families. Possibly split into two groups by age.
2)		JAM team				
3)	Plan an advertising campaign.	Trinity Circle Committee	Once the building is open			
4)	Open up Trinity Circle, and Heart & Soul meditation Groups to a larger audience. Plan how to advertise groups more widely	Jenny Leighton (Meditation)			Extending to the wider community to those with faith or no faith. Sharing fellowship.	Inter-action with the wider community. Grow our Church.
<u>OBJECTIVES ALREADY ACHIEVED</u>						

Message from Basingstoke Voluntary Action re Afghans

We have been overwhelmed by the support which has come forward and thank residents for the continual support. However, we find ourselves in a situation where certain specific items that can't be donated need to be purchased eg support with transport costs, personal hygiene products and other key items. What can you do to support? We're seeking to build a support fund to help purchase these goods as and when needed. Any unspent funds raised shall be donated to other good causes within the borough that support vulnerable residents. Please follow the link below to help build our support fund: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/18047> We would be grateful if you could share our message to others who may wish to help our cause. Once again, a huge thank you for your continued support. Kind regards The BVA Team

Taken from Circuit Notices

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**TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, SARUM HILL, BASINGSTOKE –
MISSION ACTION PLAN 2021**

Priority	Activity	Person Responsible	Timescale	Fruits we hope to see	Long Term Objective
LEARNING & CARING 1)	To facilitate more small study groups. Initially on Zoom this year and next year possibly face to face	Revd Angela Webb	Ongoing	Increasing our understanding of the Methodist way of life	Involvement with the wider community. Grow small groups. Empowering our members to host small groups, for which training and resources will be made available.
2)	Identify those members who would wish to join a Housegroup.	Jennifer Pitt	Next 2 months	Increase the numbers of members attending Housegroups.	Helping others to grow in faith. Deepening of fellowship. Identify other needs within the Church.
3)	We have 2 established Housegroups and there is a need for another group.	Jenny Leighton has volunteered	When resources are in place.		
4)	Write an article for Trinity News on the benefits of belonging to a Housegroup	Pauline Ansell	Now	Give encouragement and insight to those who have never been to a Housegroup before.	

OBJECTIVES ALREADY ACHIEVED

- 1) : The Revd Angela Webb has already written details of this in Trinity News together with an invitation to participate.
- 3) : Jenny Leighton has confirmed she will lead a third Housegroup.
- 4) : Pauline Ansell has started to write the article.

**Basingstoke Besom are appealing for help with their
annual distribution of Christmas Hampers.**

*The Church is the only society in the world that never loses any of its members,
even by death – Anon*

COP 26

As you read this issue of Trinity News, world leaders will be gathering (or may already be gathered) in Glasgow for the COP 26 Climate Change Conference. Scientists are largely agreed that this is the last opportunity for our leaders to take the bold but difficult decisions that could limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C. A rise above that would lead to even more severe impact on life on earth, with large parts of the world being simply too hot to sustain life, more frequent and more severe wildfires, droughts, storms and floods, and the loss of many animal and plant species. This in turn would lead to unprecedented migration of people, leading to global insecurity.

If you want to find out more about COP 26, there is lots of information on the Internet, including at <https://ukcop26.org/>.

As you read this, I ask you to do three things:

- 1) **Pray:** this is God's world, and we are tasked with caring for it. Pray that our leaders, at every level, will be willing to take the necessary action to preserve this planet. Thank God for the beauty and diversity of creation. Ask God's forgiveness for the damage that people have done to the planet in so many different ways, and ask God how you can help ensure that our children and their children can still enjoy life.
- 2) **Campaign:** I would guess that this doesn't come easily to most people, but it's not difficult. Sign one or more of the open letters on the Internet – Tearfund's is an example at <https://wearetearfund.org/takeastand/> – or send a message to the leaders at COP 26 – as an example, The Guardian newspaper is collating messages for delivery to the conference at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/28/tell-us-what-is-your-message-to-leaders-at-the-cop-26-climate-change-conference-2021>.
- 3) **Act:** play your part, by reducing your impact on the environment. Eat less meat and dairy produce, perhaps by having one vegetarian or vegan day each week; drive a little less; switch to a renewable energy supplier; heat your house a little less (but not so that you get ill from the cold); try to buy from local suppliers and from those who have strong sustainable values and processes. These may be small actions in themselves, but they can add up to big changes if everybody does a little.

Thank you.

Tony Pitt

Scam watch: Last week, someone was contacted saying they were eligible for a Covid Pass, inviting her to apply and saying that if you don't get one you could be liable for a fine. An administration fee of £1.99 was required, payable by filling in debit/credit card number, expiry date & security code from back of the card. Then she was asked for her bank account number and sort code, at which point she realised it was probably a scam. We checked on the internet and this is indeed a scam, fishing for bank details. Fortunately she had not sent any of these details off, but it was quite convincing. Please be aware and share this far and wide.

from Circuit Notices

ECO CHURCH (GOOD) NEWS

Thank you very much to all who completed the ECO Lifestyle Survey. We received completed questionnaires from 21 households and we believe that the results will enable us to achieve the bronze level in that category.

However we do have to satisfy 5 categories to complete the bronze award for the church as a whole. We believe that we have done enough to satisfy 3 of them, namely:-

Worship & Teaching
Buildings
And now Lifestyle.

The 2 areas that we need to work on are:-

Land & Community ie how we use the land around the church to the benefit of wildlife, plants etc and whether the local community is involved in the use of the land.

Global Engagement ie Engagement with the local community and overseas ECO related charities ie Toilet Twinning. Do we hold ECO related events on the church premises, arrange talks with our local MP or council members inviting members of the community and a whole raft over other initiatives.

Both of these will provide significant challenges to us all. Any ideas in these areas would be welcome.

Tony Pitt and Peter Ansell

Coming for a short time only to your Church

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

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

Jennifer Pitt



Hold her hand

While out in the town, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was. The man replied, "we have been holding hands when we go out in public for over 30 years. I have to. If I let go, she shops."



Trinity Methodist Church Basingstoke, Church Council

The Church Council met on 07 October 2021 in the Church Sanctuary, led by Rev'd Audrey Browne.

Reports from Groups

We now only have a small team of three Stewards: Diane, Jenny and Edna; currently also with Katrina, but this may change.

The Worship Group continue to meet; there is a shortage of preachers across the whole Circuit.

Prayer Link is still in operation.

JAM have had two meetings since lockdown was relaxed. Not so many are coming at the moment, but this may change.

House Groups: Winklebury is the only active house group at the moment, headed by Heather Shepherd. Edna is hoping to re-start the Northern house group.

It was felt that our Coffee Morning may not be viable until the Spring. It would probably be allowable to remove masks when seated, but wear a mask when moving around, and maintain a one metre social distance.

Edna has stepped down from the Admin Team, so the office can now only open on one day each week. Some copies of the Magazine are still being printed for those who do not have computer access. The notice outside the Church shows the office number which is only manned once a week. Audrey agreed that her number can be given here.

Soul Space: Not meeting at the moment. However, there is a potential problem on Mondays with a dance class also running at the same time, so the area cannot be as quiet as would be needed. Perhaps things might be different by next Spring.

Worship Leaders: Hilary is still in training.
Worship Group leaders might need some support.

Mission Action Plan

The Plans distributed to the meeting represent nine months of hard work. Barbara thanked everyone for their prayers, and those who helped with the survey, and attended the workshop on Saturday 24 August. They now need someone to take this on and make sure it moves forward and grows. Thanks were expressed to Barbara.

Finance

The meeting approved the appointment of Sarah Whithorn, who has agreed to audit the accounts.

A number of reports which had been submitted were approved for signature.
Gas and Electricity costs are fixed to 2023.

Deficit: We should not draw on reserves to cover the deficit in the accounts, as it is allowable to use reserves only for specific projects. We would need to increase income and/or reduce expenditure to cover a deficit.

Circuit/Pension Fund deficit: there is a suggestion that churches should pay 15% of income to cover this. This may not be possible.

cont'd...

Support Services:

Various documents circulated for the meeting were approved for signature: Property Check List, Property Return, and Property Information Report. The last expert electrical check was carried out in 2014, and the next one should be arranged for next summer when the power can be cut off without disturbing any users of the building.

Hiring and Parking charges are set by calendar year, so the meeting approved that these charges remain unchanged. Sue Doust resigned from the Booking and Parking job some time ago but continues to fill the role until a replacement is found. We urgently need someone to take on this role.

Our Admin office is now only open on one day per week. Thanks were expressed to Edna for all her work over such a long time.

Relaxation of Covid-19 rules: A number of questions were put to the meeting in this regard. Proposal was that people could be allowed to remove masks when seated but would need to put masks on when walking around and when singing.

Signing in should continue, so that we are always able to identify any visitors if required at a later date. ***Due to the current situation, the rules will remain Unchanged until further notice.***

Post-service refreshments: not yet, but maybe in the Spring when the windows can be opened. Suggestion was that we should try out having refreshments after a service before we resume a coffee morning. The decision was deferred to the next Church Council meeting on 10 March 2022.

Those people who feel they wish to continue wearing masks could be seated somewhere appropriate where they will feel comfortable, perhaps near the side door which could be opened for improved ventilation.

Lettings: We may be getting a new letting on two days a week in the basement.

Health and Safety: Nothing particular to report; the floor in the foyer needs to be repaired/renewed.

Eco Church: Tony and Peter are working towards a Bronze Eco Church award. Thanks were expressed to all who completed the questionnaire. The Circuit Eco Group had warned that we should expect a very low response level, but the achievement was actually better than forecast.

GILUU: [God In Love Unites Us]

Audrey has expressed her feelings on this matter. In the event of a need arising, we can contact the Circuit for assistance.

Future Dates:

Joint Carol Service:	Sunday 19 December at 3 pm at Trinity
Christingle Service:	Monday 20 December at 3 pm at Trinity
Joint Christmas Day service:	Saturday 25 Dec 10 am at Trinity (note different time)
No service on Boxing Day	--
Joint Service:	Sunday 2 January at St Andrew's
Joint Covenant Service:	Sunday 9 January, 10.30 at Trinity

cont'd...

Church Council (cont'd)

Audrey is finishing her Sabbatical from 16 January to 20 February 2022.

Date of next Church Council meeting: Thursday 10 March 2022 at 2.00 pm.

* * * * *

An Invitation from Angela Webb

I have been reflecting since I attended the Trinity Mission Action Plan Meeting in September.

I am starting some small groups led by me starting initially on Zoom on a Tuesday afternoon with a view to transferring some of them to Trinity once we have got through the coming Winter. I am imagining that these groups would comprise 6 people on Zoom and would meet fortnightly or monthly depending on how many people wanted to join in.

These groups would focus on the part of the **Methodist Way of Life** (a copy of which is in the October issue of Trinity E-news) which speaks of looking and listening for God in scripture and the world. They would draw on our experience of the praying with the Bible groups that I held at my house before covid. However I am thinking there would be more sharing and I would try to provide some material in advance. I hope we would find ourselves learning and discerning in ways that would affect our individual and community lives.

I am hoping that, as we begin to meet on Zoom, you will help me to work out how to include those who cannot access Zoom.

If you would like to join one of these groups, please would you contact me by email at angela@webbfamily.org.uk and I will send you a link to our first Zoom meeting.



Prayer for our Town

7th November, 7:00-8:30pm
 Praise Embassy, Lennox House,
 Lennox Road, Basingstoke. RG22 4AP

**Sunday 7 November
 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
 Prayer for our Town**

*Praise Embassy, Lennox House,
 Lennox Road, Basingstoke, RG22 4AP*

The focus of our prayers will be calling upon God to equip and empower the church in our community as expressed through OneChurch Basingstoke to play a major role in 'Building back Better' following the ravages of the Covid pandemic. We believe that we have a part to play in the recovery of our town that can only be done through working together as God's people.

**Sunday 7 November 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
 Prayer for our Town**

*Praise Embassy, Lennox House, Lennox Road,
 Basingstoke. RG22 4AP*

Lament for the Planet
*Looking forward to
 COP 26,
 Glasgow, 2021*

Gracious and Generous
 God,
 Creator and sustainer of all,
 Great I am,
 We praise you.
 Everything is a gift
 From you,
 We thank you.

We thank you
 For this blue planet,
 Our fragile home,
 Seen completely
 In images from space
 Placed alongside
 Words from the Bible,
 'In the beginning God
 created
 The heavens and the
 Earth.'
 You saw your Creation
 And it was good.
 Wise elders remind us,
 Human beings are one
 thread
 In the web of life.
 Whatever we do to the web,
 We do to ourselves.

Creator God, forgive us
 Our self-centredness,
 Our greed,
 Our blindness to the lies
 We tell ourselves.

We have refused
 To let you be God.
 We have put ourselves
 At the centre of Creation.
 We have dominated
 And exploited the planet
 You entrusted to us.

We have gorged ourselves
 Burning fossil fuels.

We have saturated the
 atmosphere
 With greenhouse gases
 Causing global warming,
 Hurricanes and heatwaves,
 Wildfires and winter storms,
 Flooding and droughts,
 Retreating ice,
 Rising sea levels.

We know we can
 Make a difference
 But we have failed
 To work together
 With one another
 With You
 For this good.
 Forgive us.

You show us
 That we need to reach
 Net zero carbon
 Quickly.
 Show us too Gracious God
 What is ours to do?

We can pray;
 Holy Spirit teach us to pray
 We can urge our leaders
 To build climate friendly
 Communities;
 Holy Spirit guide us
 In our campaigning.
 We can eat less meat,
 Fewer dairy products
 And more vegetables.
 Holy Spirit grant wisdom,
 Show us the next step to
 take.
 We can use our cars
 Only when essential.
 We can save energy at
 home
 And use green energy.
 Holy Spirit help us
 In our stewardship.

Gracious and Generous
 God,
 Creator and sustainer of all,
 Great I am,

We cry out to you for help.
 Help us to put you
 At the centre of our lives.
 Help us to care for
 Brother ocean and sister
 wind.
 Help us to honour
 The cheeky bluetit
 And the soaring red kite.
 Help us to savour
 The fragility of the
 snowdrop
 And the mighty strength
 Of the redwood tree.
 Help us to see your hand
 In all that you have made.

This is a huge task
 Requiring changed hearts
 And renewed minds.
 Send forth your Spirit
 To transform us.
 Empower us to repent
 And to work with you
 For the good of the whole
 planet.
 We know that you have
 promised
 That you are making
 All things new.
 Renew our hope, our
 resolve
 To place you at the centre
 Of all we do
 And to thank you
 For life in all its fullness
 In our thoughts and words,
 In our individual actions
 In our corporate works.

Gracious and Generous
 God,
 Creator and sustainer of all,
 Great I am,
 We praise you.
 Everything is a gift
 From you,
 We thank you.

ALW2021

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Housegroups Are you interested?

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



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

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

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

Please contact Jennifer Pitt by phone, email or in person if you would be interested in joining a housegroup.

from Pauline Ansell

Harvest Collection



We had a tremendous response to our retiring collection for harvest. With gift aid added we raised £305.

Jennifer took a trip to Tesco and overfilled a trolley, which is probably why she dropped a jar of pasta sauce on the floor there - - oops. We purchased mainly meat, fruit, pasta sauces and fish. The car was loaded and we delivered the items to foodbank that afternoon when we were doing our weekly stint there. The produce weighed in at 205.42kgs or 32.5 stone. That means the weight of the donation is equivalent to feeding about 35 people for 3 days.

So on behalf of Basingstoke Foodbank and their clients, a big thank you for your generous donation, **Jennifer and Tony Pitt**



Faces and Places

He stood on the doorstep. He was tall, and I said, "I am collecting for Christian Aid" He went to get the envelope. Then he said "You don't remember me, do you?" I struggled with my memory. "Well, no, should I?" I replied. "I was one of the little boys you crossed over the road to school" he said. He had grown beyond recognition. Sometimes it is people we should recognize, whose faces are less familiar, and we cannot put a name to them. Age and perhaps Dementia can cause this, and we are sad because of it.

Recently I went on holiday, to a little Welsh town, just over the English border. When I arrived, waiting to meet me at the station, was a lady I first met several years ago. What a joy it was to see her. I felt welcome, a good feeling.

Covid has robbed many of us of those special loved faces, but gradually we see them again, and the place they have in our hearts is restored.

My holiday, in a place I lived, over sixty years ago, was wonderful. Just to walk along the streets, remembering the names of the people who lived there, was so enriching. Bowling Green Lane, (no Bowling Green there) Bronybuckley, where a brook had run alongside the houses, and the Welshpool Llanfair light railway which went through the town. Then the canal basin, part of the Montgomeryshire Canal, and the little shops, no department store here.

The town hasn't changed much, and the folk at the Methodist Chapel on Sunday morning, were warm and welcoming. Over fifty of them singing, (behind masks) in Harvest praise as only the Welsh can.

We all have places and faces we love, and we are blessed if we can recall and visit them.

Jesus said in John 's Gospel, "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, you might be also."

The hymnwriter John Henry Newman, writes in the last verse of his hymn, ***'Lead kindly light'***:

***'So long thy pow'r hath blessed me, it still will lead me on,
o'er moor and fen, till the night is gone; and with the morn,
those angel faces smile, which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.'***

God bless you.

Margaret Garland

All-age Resources available (no payment required)

A collection of Junior Church / Messy Church books are offered to anyone who can use them. The Junior Church materials include a few story books and books on how to run small group classes but are mostly craft ideas. The photo offers some idea as to what is available: If interested, please contact Peter Frank on: resources@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk



The Mug and Biscuit

The Mug and Biscuit at St Andrews Church has reopened.



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



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

We look forward to welcoming old and new friends.



The Mug and Biscuit Team

Any queries contact:

Linda Hoe ☎: 07963 583506



Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

* * * *

War does not determine who is right – only who is left –
Bertrand Russell

* * * *

ADVENT REFLECTIONS OPEN TO ALL

At Old Basing Methodist Church, on Thursdays at 2.30 pm



Session 1 on 25th November “On the Way to Bethlehem”

Session 2 on 9th December “Beyond the Chocolate Window”

Session 3 on 16th December “Walking backwards to Christmas”

At Oakridge Methodist Church, on Sundays at 3.30 pm

Session 1 on 28th November “On the Way to Bethlehem”

Session 2 on 5th December “Beyond the Chocolate Window”

Session 3 on 12th December “Walking backwards to Christmas”

Family tree – At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. "Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror," observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, "What about you dear? Can you go back very far?" "Not very far," came the reply. "You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood."

Blister Pack Recycling

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



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

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

Jennifer Pitt

Recycling of Plastic Milk Bottle Tops –

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

Thank you, **June Bishop**

Trinity Collections

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



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

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

David Gunton (Treasurer) – david@gunton.org or 01256-352342 or

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

The tragedy of war is that it uses man’s best to do man’s worst –
Harry Emerson Fosdick



COVID 19 UPDATE:

UPDATE Foodbank

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



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

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

THANK YOU for your continued support!

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

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

At 31.10.21, we are Short of:

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

We have Plenty of:

- Hot Cereals,
- Porridge Sachets
- Baked Beans
- Biscuits
- Rice
- Soup
- Crisps
- Squash
- Tea, Fruit Teas
- Cat & Dog Food

Thank you for your continued support

We always welcome Donations

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

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

RECYCLING UPDATE WE STILL NEED YOUR RECYCLING!



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

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

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



Many thanks for all your support, **Hazel Green**, malandhazel@hotmail.com ☎: 07776 442529

Nigel has been busy raising money for Children in Need

How did Nigel get involved ?

Nigel wanted to give some money to **Children in Need** and was watching the One Show and their bike ride. But this had to stop because of Covid 19. So Nigel thought that we must back the children who were told that they couldn't do it. With money you could pay for a child to go to one meeting / club. So Nigel decided to pay for the whole year and also paid for a second person with the help of Gift Aid. Nigel said it makes him smile when he thinks of the children having fun.

This year the money that has come from **Children in Need** to Basingstoke is £45,634.

Nigel has been given a 'Thank You Card' from Children in Need and had a Zoom call with Matt Baker and the Chairwoman of Children in Need. As he wasn't able to meet them in person due to Covid 19, he will be going to the TV centre later in the year to meet the bear. Nigel said he still can't believe this and he will keep us all up-to-date on what's going on.

Well done Nigel (and we look forward to the next instalment)

I know not the way God leads me, but well do I know my Guide – Martin Luther

The Body of Christ Portrayed in Nature

I took a walk over by the lake in the Vyne National Trust gardens the other day and took this picture. It is of a whole community of ducks, many of them I am sure were hatched earlier in the year, and raised from chicks by their parents during the Spring and Summer, and were now young adults in their own right. All of them had now come together for a common purpose, the annual migration to the South to warmer climates. They needed to be together to protect each other during their long and dangerous journey and to follow the leadership of the mature adults who had made the journey before. Each of them would have their own part to play on that journey, looking after and protecting one another.



Returning home the following thoughts came to mind. The actions of this community of ducks is a living example to us of God's Creation in action, and an example to us all of God's ongoing plan for the well-being of all His Creation.

God has created each of us as unique individuals with our own personal skills and attributes, but with freedom of choice in our actions. Through the indwelling of His Spirit He has then brought us together united in the body of Christ to do His Will for the benefit of all mankind, using and developing these God given skills.

Should we not look to God's Creation of the creatures of the land, sea and sky, and see how they work together in harmony, and learn from it?

Just as we are guided by God in our actions and deeds, should not these creatures created as they were in an earlier time than ourselves, be guided by God, their Creator, to do His Will in a way unique for them?

4. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5. so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12: 4-5.

Martin Frost, St Andrews, October 2021

The Syrophenician Woman and the Dogs

We are all familiar with the story of the faith of the Syrophenician woman in Mark Chapter 7, when Jesus drives out demons from her daughter because of her great faith.

27. *"First let the children eat all they want", he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."*

28. *"Yes Lord", she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."*

29. *Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."*

The "children" being the Jews, the lost sheep of Israel whom Jesus was coming to save,

cont'd.....

The Syrophenician Woman and the Dogs (cont'd.....)

and the “bread” being God’s covenanted blessings. The “dogs” being the Gentiles, whom the Jews considered to be spiritually unclean and inferior, and generally used the term dogs as an expression of this. Dogs in this sense would have been the wild unclean dogs of the street.

In a recent discussion on this topic I have taken a less extreme view of the “dogs” in the context of these verses. Jesus has come deliberately to Syrophenicia to reach out to the Gentiles and is now making this outreach public which would have been offensive to many Jews. Jesus however has a conciliatory approach to the Gentiles and does not portray them as wild dogs but as domesticated ones living with the “children”, as inferred by “tossing the bread to their dogs”.

The Syrophenician woman, was a determined woman as demonstrated by her persistence in seeking out Jesus and demonstrates that she has a sharp mind and a sense of wit in her immediate response. She is not insulted but agrees with Jesus that she is less deserving than the Jews, although not without some merit, and so deserves some small favour from God. Hence her response relating to clearly domesticated dogs in the home living under the children’s table and eating their crumbs. It was her demonstration of her faith in the healing power of Jesus and his God given authority, and her persistence, that enabled her daughter to be healed.

This is a watershed moment in the Ministry of Jesus, and the message is one of reconciliation and outreach as Jesus is now clearly demonstrating that His Ministry is for all mankind and not only for the children of Israel, and continuous with us today.

Martin Frost, St Andrews, October 2021

Basingstoke Street Pastors have Vacancies for:



- Trustees – we are looking for at least two people to join our management team. The team usually meet for a couple of hours every two months. Trustees come from every walk of life and bring that experience to the team. You do not need to be a Street Pastor to become a trustee just have a heart to serve God by serving the teams that go out.
- Street Pastors – we are looking to greatly expand our current team by recruiting 10 new Street Pastors. This will enable us to cover all Friday and Saturday evenings each month as we currently cannot do this. Street Pastors are also drawn from all walks of life. They need to be people in good standing with their local church and be at least 18 years of age (there is no upper age limit!). We ask Street Pastors to patrol just once a month. The best way to find out if you have what it takes is to join team as an observer a couple of times.
- Prayer Pastors – these are people who commit to pray for the team as they go out each evening. Usually there will be one Prayer Pastor on duty each evening who will connect in with the team via a conference call. They then pray for the team while they are out for as long as they are able. (They are not expected to stay up all night!)
- Chaplain – we are looking for an experienced church minister/pastor who would be willing to provide pastoral support to all the various different team members. The previous chaplain was also a Trustee but that is not a requirement.
- For more information about any of these roles please **contact David Grant** using: basingstoke@streetpastors.org.uk (taken from OneChurch, Basingstoke)

Only found this newsletter very recently, even though it's Summer 2021

Community Food Link

Summer Newsletter 2021



CFL is a volunteer led project based in Basingstoke & Deane. We collect fresh food that cannot be sold from our partner supermarkets and sort, repack and deliver it to our distribution partners, charities, schools and playgroups to help the most vulnerable in our society.

Summer at CFL

We have had a busy summer collecting and delivering fresh food to and from a growing number of places. We currently pick up from 12 locations a week and deliver to 16 hubs and schools around Basingstoke and Deane throughout the week. Our fridges and freezers are always full! In October we will be welcoming a new partner supermarket and we will be starting afternoon collections.

A huge thank you again to all who are involved, especially to all our new volunteers.



CFL Hubs—October 2021

Monday Melrose Community Hall, Popley 11-12noon

Monday Salvation Army, Wessex Close 10.30am-12noon

Tuesday Basingstoke Baptist Church, Brighton Hill 10.30am - 12noon

Tuesday and Thursday Inspero at Kempshott Village Hall 10am-2pm

Wednesday Winklebury Church of the Good Shepherd 12noon - 2pm

Wednesday Westside Community Centre, South Ham 10am-1pm

(WCC is slightly different as it is a Food Pantry with a small charge of £5 for 12 items)

Friday Oakridge Methodist Church 1pm - 3pm

Saturday United Reformed Church (URC), London St 12noon - 1pm

You Can Help: as a Volunteer Driver; By helping Load Collections; Helping Sort Food Donations; Setting up a Distribution Hub; Support us Financially.

Food Sorters Required

We are looking for food sorters to come and help at London St URC between 8pm -10pm most evenings (Saturday evening is a priority). Whether you can help once a week or once a month any help would be hugely appreciated. Please contact us at: volunteers@bcfd.org.uk



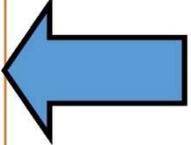
Basingstoke Baptist Church Hub Update

Dave and his team run the hub at Basingstoke Baptist Church each week. This is a brief overview of what they get up to:

“People begin queuing from 8.45am on Tuesday morning so tea and coffee is served while they wait. The tables are set up in the carpark under the gazebo and the team fill them with the produce ready for collection from 10.30am, one at a time. We serve an average of 25 individuals each week. Any excess goods are left on a table at the top of the carpark next to a public walkway for people to pick up whilst passing. There is usually no waste. Additional preprepared frozen meals are kept in case of any late comers.”

We are looking for individuals and churches who can give £10, £20, £50 a month (or more) to help with our running costs and expansion plans - vehicles, fuel, accommodation, equipment and utilities.

Thank you to the team at Basingstoke Baptist Church and all our distribution hubs who work tirelessly to provide for the local community



Donate here

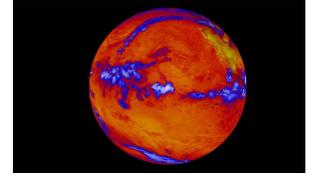
Community Food Link is proud to be registered with FareShare and Neighbourly. Details can be found at: www.fareshare.org.uk www.neighbourly.com



The Community Food Link Project is run by a group of volunteers based at London St. United Reformed Church Basingstoke and is part of Starfish Enterprise Trust Ltd, Basingstoke. Community Food Link Basingstoke www.bcfcd.org.uk

Canon Paul Hardingham Considers the COP26 Climate Conference

Caring for Creation – This month sees the eagerly anticipated COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. As Christians, we need to hold together two key insights, if we are to engage with the challenge of climate change:



The world is not ours: *'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it'* (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! If we understand this, we will rediscover the responsibility of our calling to care for God's world: *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* (Genesis 2:15). This challenges our consumer mindset, that says the resources of the earth are both limitless and exist for our pleasure. As well as caring for the planet, we also need to care for its people, for it's the poorest who will suffer the most from climate change. According to the World Bank, 100 million could fall into poverty by 2030. We cannot properly address the climate crisis until we re-learn our place in God's world!

We belong to Christ: We also belong to the one in whom: *'all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.'* (Colossians 1:16). We can look forward to the climax of history when God will restore the broken world and make everything new. We are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth, as we share in this hope. We are called to love God and neighbour, and care for the planet by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options.

However great the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage in it with faith and not with fatalism! *(from Parish Pump)*

We Remember

The Somme, Dunkirk and Passchendaele Cause us to think of times of war,
When men and boys went bravely out, they fought, some died and returned no more.
They gave their all that we should live, we never should forget such cost,
Remembering with thankful hearts our freedom gained as lives were lost.

Another Man gave up His life, another war, another fight,
With all mankind held fast in chains as darkness fell as black as night.
The cost was high, a sinless life to break the chains and set us free,
The Lamb of God on Calvary's cross paid that price for you, for me.

by Megan Carter (Parish Pump)

* * * * *

Prayer for November

Father, in these short, dark days of November, with all the uncertainties and complications in our new Covid 19 landscape, help us to feel the reassurance of Your presence in the gift of each new day. Help us to be guided through the darkness by Your light - by Jesus, who will never leave us or forsake us.
In His name - the name above pandemics and shortages and rising bills and all anxieties
- we pray, Amen.

by Daphne Kitching (Parish Pump)

Canon Paul Hardingham Considers the Horrors of War

Lest We Forget – *'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'*



This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol for those who have sacrificed their lives in war, especially as we remember those who died in Afghanistan. But why do we remember?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria fell due to the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let's ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

from Parish Pump

Nigel Beeton writes: *November is also the month of remembrance, made more poignant this year by the recent withdrawal from Afghanistan. Was it a waste? It's not for me to say, but the gallantry shown by our armed forces can never be a waste. We, like their families, are so proud of what they did in the name of freedom. I cannot think of a more appropriate poem than the one that I wrote in 2009 in response to the loss of our soldiers out there, **O Gallant Youth:***

O Gallant Youth (by Nigel Beeton, from Parish Pump)

Through long dark years our young have fought and died,
in Freedom's name our country's foes defied;

Now in Remembrance they are glorified, O Gallant Youth, we owe so much to you.

Though they were young, when came their country's call,
ready they were to stand up strong and tall.

They did not flinch when asked to give their all, O Gallant Youth, we give our thanks for you.

*Rows of graves, with headstones white tributes to our gallant men,
From Sun's rise till it sets from sight we'll always remember them.*

Though they know well how high the price before – legions of men and women lost in war –
Our young today are standing firm and sure! O Gallant Youth, we are so proud of you!

*Desert sands, through wind or flame far flung seas, or skies of blue
Where you go in Freedom's name we'll always think of you.*

Go, in our name, to duty or to fight, go, with our hopes into the darkest night;
The hand of God will lead into the light, O Gallant Youth, we send our prayers with you!
Follow your fellow men from ages past stand side by side with them, sincere, steadfast
Fight for the right until you come at last home, Gallant Youth, to those that wait for you.

Basingstoke Choral Society



PRESS RELEASE

It's been a long time coming, but with the easing of Covid restrictions, **Basingstoke Choral Society, together with Croydon Philharmonic Choir**, is delighted to be able to welcome their audience back to **The Anvil, Basingstoke**, for a concert of Choral Gems, on **Sunday 14 November at 7 pm**.

Having had to cancel six previous concerts, this performance, the first since March 2019, will be particularly noteworthy for the choirs, who have only recently been able to attend live rehearsals. Practice hasn't stopped however, with rehearsals being held on Zoom throughout and many choristers having learned new skills, mastering the technology for the first time. Furthermore, new members have joined and previous members have re-joined the choirs, indicating the dedication and professionalism the singers will be bringing back to the stage.

Music will include *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Faure, *Laudate Dominus* by Mozart, Franck's ethereal *Panis Angelicus* and the 23rd Psalm setting by Howard Goodall, which viewers of *The Vicar of Dibley* will instantly recognise. The programme will also include pieces by Bach, Haydn, and Monteverdi.

The choirs will be joined by accomplished soprano soloist, Emma Tring, and accompanied by the New London Sinfonia. **The conductor will be the choirs' Musical Director, David Gibson.**

Tickets are priced at £27, £21, £16 and £12, with student and under 16's tickets at £7 (including a £3.00 booking fee). All are available from the Anvil Box Office on ☎: 01256 844244 or anvilarts.org.uk.

Don't miss what promises to be an inspiring concert of beautiful music. Book now.

Good News for Coffee Lovers



If you drink a cup of coffee a day, you could reduce your risk of having a stroke by a fifth. A recent study, by researchers at Semmelweis University in Budapest, found that people who drink a moderate amount of coffee (from half a cup to three cups a day) are 21 per cent less likely to have a stroke, as compared to people who avoid coffee completely. About 100,000 people in the UK suffer a stroke each year, and it is the fourth leading cause of death, just behind dementia, heart disease and lung cancer.

100 years ago, on 11 November 1921 Remembrance poppies were sold for the first time in British and Commonwealth Countries to Commemorate Military Personnel who died in war. In the UK they are sold by the Royal British Legion to raise funds for current and former members of the British Armed Forces. Around 30 million poppies are sold each year.

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90 years ago, on 30 November 1931 Crystal Palace in London was destroyed by fire.

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65 years ago, on 5 November 1956 Premium Bonds went on sale in the UK. They were designed to encourage people to save and offered cash prizes instead of interest.

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25 years ago, on 30 November 1996 England officially returned the Stone of Scone to Scotland after 700 years. It was the Coronation Stone of the Scottish and (later) English and British Monarchs. Scotland agreed to loan the Stone to Westminster Abbey for future Coronations.

Contactless Payment Limit Goes Up

The contactless payment limit has just more than doubled. It now stands at £100. And while this will be more convenient to many of us, it is also “a thief’s dream.” So say the critics. As one financial expert from fund shop AJ Bell, points out: “By spending £100 a pop without having to put in a PIN, it will be very easy for thieves to blitz through money quickly, before you even spot that your card is lost or has been stolen.” Another finance expert, from the consumer group Fairer Finance adds: “it’s much more attractive for petty criminals to steal cards and use them a few times if they can spend up to a three-figure sum.”



The greatest saints have always shown the perfect combination of nearness to our Lord on the one hand, and a deep sense of their own unworthiness and weakness on the other – *Anon*

Shoemakers

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**Bible
Notes**

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Books**

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More**

Environment

Shoemakers Christian Bookshop, Newbury:

New Website for Shoemakers Bookshop: www.christophershoemaker.org.uk

Message from Shoemakers: We are very excited to announce that our new website has arrived. Our great new website is bigger and better than before. It is specifically designed to be more user-friendly, making it easier to find what you want and to place your orders.

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

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



And may Romans 8:37-39 encourage us all

For the Young & not so Young

PUZZLES

Crossword

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 14:13-21, Mk 6:30-44, Lk 9:10-17, Jn 6:1-15

Jesus and his disciples went by boat to a quiet place to have some time alone, but the crowds noticed, and followed them.

Sudoku

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

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Wordsearch grid:

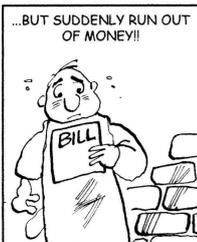
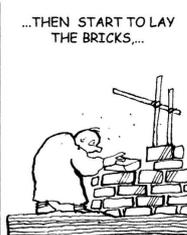
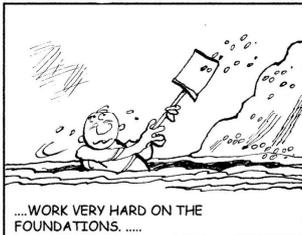
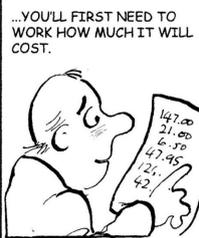
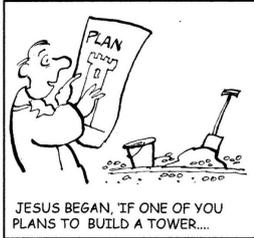
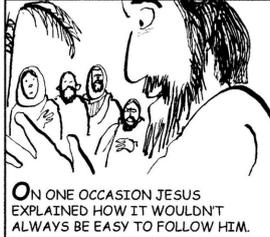
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 N L D S H D B O A A A E N
 D L G L T B O C C G W L S
 L A O A E L M L T E U D F
 O F I M B T L O B M Y S D

Wordsearch for November 2021 Poppies

It was a 100 years ago this month, on 11 November 1921, that Remembrance poppies were sold for the first time in British and Commonwealth countries to commemorate military personnel who died in war.

- Remembrance
- Military
- Trench
- Poppies
- Personnel
- Warfare
- Sold
- Mud
- Thousands
- Countries
- Blood
- Bright
- Commemorate
- Carnage
- Red
- Graves
- Fallen
- Flanders
- Fields
- Symbol

The tale of the Tower Builder



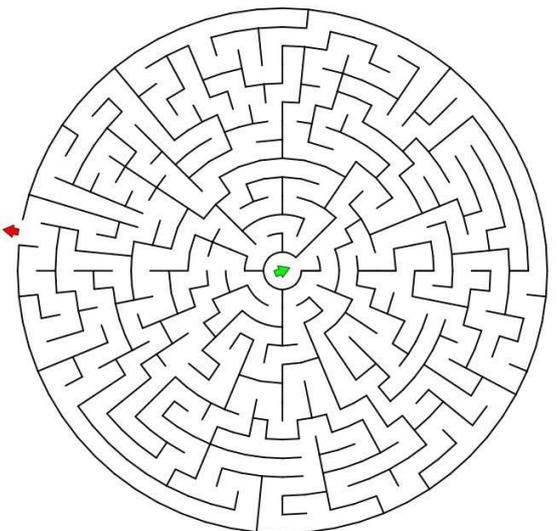
Puzzle Pages Solutions

- ACROSS:** 1, Charioteers. 9, Immoral. 10, Cairo. 11, SAE. 13, Inns. 16, Firm. 17, Accuse. 18, East. 20, Ogam. 21, Judith. 22, Seba. 23, Msgr. 25, Den. 28, Inane. 29, Entreat. 30, Chrysoprase.
- DOWN:** 2, Human. 3, Rare. 4, Oils. 5, Ecce. 6, Raising. 7, Citizenship. 8, Commemorate. 12, Assail. 14, Sat. 15, Scouse. 19, Sabbath. 20, Ohm. 24, Seeds. 25, Deny. 26, Nero. 27, Star.

Sudoku Solution

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

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



- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Thousands | Boat | Eat | Taught | Jesus | Buy |
| Fish | Sorry | Gather | Wanted | Remote | Healed |
| Philip | Boy | Planned | Leftovers | Baskets | Blessed |
| Loaves | Disciples | Afternoon | King | Crowd | Andrew |

