



# Trinity E-News



Issue 02 / 24

Trinity's email: [trinity@basingstokecircuit.net](mailto:trinity@basingstokecircuit.net)

March 2024

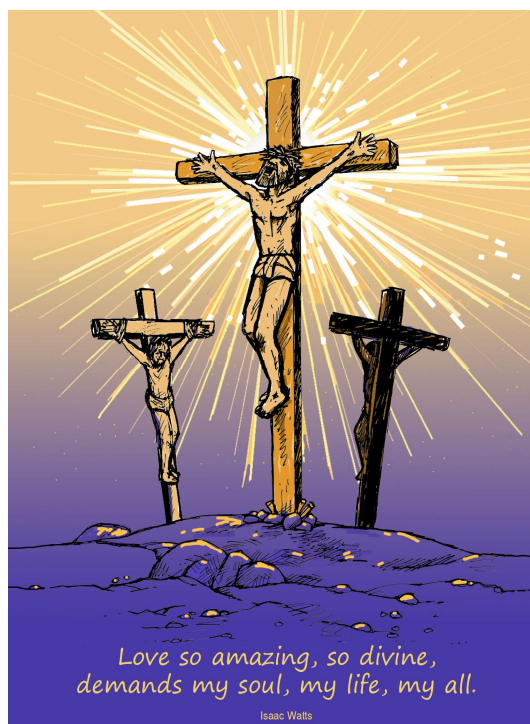


**Our Minister is:**  
**Revd Claire Simpson**

☎: 01256 323103

email:  
[revclaire72@btinternet.com](mailto:revclaire72@btinternet.com)

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



**2 images PP**

**Mothering  
Sunday  
10 March**

**Clocks go forward 1 am  
Sunday  
31 March**



**This  
Image  
Pixabay**

**Online Circuit Services at:**  
<https://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk/worship-prayer>

**The 'World Cannot Bury Christ'. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet – E Thomson**

**Trinity E-News:**  
**Deadline: Apr 24:**  
**Mon 18 Mar 2024,**  
**(due to Easter)**

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

I love receiving all your items, please keep them coming. **A Big Thankyou** to everyone who sends in items. They can be phoned, posted, emailed or given to me.

**Thank you, Hazel**

(☎: 01256-461375) & email:  
[hazel@basingstokecircuit.net](mailto:hazel@basingstokecircuit.net)  
16B Portacre Rise, B/Stoke,  
RG218YQ

**Link: Circuit Website:**  
[www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](http://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk)

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**AND LOTS MORE**

March 2024

Dear Friends,

On the very last day of this month we celebrate Easter. The Easter weekend also sees us move to British Summer Time and we put our clocks forward an hour (if we never put them back in October then they go back to telling us the right time again!) So, the evening of Easter Sunday will see us, hopefully, enjoying a bit more daylight before the darkness of night settles in.

But the flip side for those first few weeks of British Summer Time is that the mornings will be darker to a later time, at least for a while. That's interesting as I reflect on the accounts of the resurrection that we have in the gospels. If I were to pick a favourite then John's account of Mary meeting the risen Jesus in the garden on that first Easter morning particularly resonates with me. John begins by telling us 'Early on that first day of the week, while it was still dark.....'. Resurrection has already happened! In the darkness of the overnight Jesus has risen from the dead and Mary has yet to discover this to be true. We shall wake from our beds (maybe whilst it is still dark) on Easter day to this same truth.

John's gospel (and a bit of his first letter which is also in the New Testament) offers us some meditation on the theme of 'darkness and light'. John starts his gospel by telling us that light has come into the world in Jesus' incarnation and that the darkness will not overcome it. He records Jesus saying 'I am the light of the world' and now, nearing the end of his gospel, John makes it clear that in the darkness of the night, the light of the resurrection has come and as the sun rises on that first day of the week, the glorious and undimmed truth of the resurrection sets the world on fire for those who encountered him in the days of that first Easter.

The light that appeared on that first Easter

morning spans two thousand years and greets us too, and resurrection light and hope is so needed in our world today. It is hard to watch; read about; and hear the news that so often speaks of the darkness in places of war and turmoil; drought and famine; natural disaster and other tragedies. We may feel too that there is much darkness in our own lives as we experience pain and difficulty, sadness and sorrow. And yet, as John tells his story of that first glorious Easter morning, it is amidst Mary's tears and sorrow that the risen Lord calls her name and she hears and sees and experiences resurrection for herself.

My prayer for the Easter season is that resurrection light would come and bring hope and healing to our world and to our own lives. That we might walk in that same light bringing hope as we move forward in faith and proclaim with confidence and joy that Christ has risen, He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With love

Claire

## **Come & Join the Lent Course**

**'Living in the Light'**

**5 Weekly Sessions  
from 2 pm – 3.30 pm:**



***The Lent Course Started on  
Wednesday 21 February***

**The Remaining DATES are:-**

**Wednesday 6 March**

**Wednesday 13 March**

**Wednesday 20 March**

**In the Church** Image PP

## PRAYING &amp; LISTENING



## On Sunday mornings –

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

## Northern Housegroup

Our next Housegroup is on:

**Tuesday 5 March at 7.30 pm at Sonia's home.**

**We are pleased to welcome back the Revd Jackie Case who will be leading our evening.**

**Sonia, Edna and Hilary**

## 'Thanks' and a 'New Charity'

I would like to **Thank** all those who give their **Used Postage Stamps** via the box in the Mug & Biscuit.



They have been in the past saved for 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' but I have now lost my contact with them.

But **please continue to donate** – as the charity is now '**St Michael's Hospice**'.

**THANKS – Bob**

Stamp Image, Pete's photo

- My boss calls me 'The Computer'. Nothing to do with intelligence; I go to sleep if left unattended for 15 minutes.

## Trinity Circle

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 12 March at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's.**

Our Speaker will be **Jackie Dimmock** who will be telling us about "**A Life in Law and Order**".

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

**Sonia**

## (JAM) – 'Jesus And Me'

**Meets: 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm, usually the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.**



**The Next 'JAM' Dates are:**

**Sunday 3 March at St Andrew's:**

\* \* \* \* \*

**JAM – Children & Families** now meet at St Andrew's, usually the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month to hear stories of Jesus, Craft, Singing & Tea.

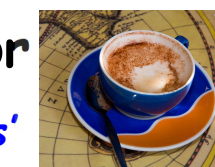
**All are very welcome.**

**Do come along and join us.**

## Come &amp; Join Us For

## 'Fellowship with Friends'

after Morning Worship on Sundays along with an '**enjoyable Coffee, Tea, Biscuit and sometimes even cake**' !







**Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson**

**Sunday Worship at St Andrew's & Trinity  
and our Basingstoke Churches**

**Plan for Worship for March to May 2024**

**Enquiries – Joint Senior Stewards:**

**Diane Bath** ☎: 01256 320429 or email [dianeath51@gmail.com](mailto:dianeath51@gmail.com)

**Linda Hoe** ☎: 01256 417219 or email [lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk)



***Basingstoke & Reading Circuit – Basingstoke Churches – March 2024***

Dates	3 March	10 March Mothering Sunday	17 March	24 March Palm Sunday	31 March Easter Sunday
Trinity / St Andrew's 10.30 am	Rev David Jenkins, S	Rev Claire Simpson, P	C Marsh	Mrs L Hoe	Rev Claire Simpson, S
Church of Living Stream 10.30 am	LA	Rev Dr J Mather	N Graham	N Klingaman	S Turner
Oakley 10.30 am	LA	P Frank	Mrs S Whithorn	Rev Claire Simpson, S	Rev Barbara McIntivey
Oakridge 10.30 am	Rev Claire Simpson, S	N Klingaman	T Rowell	United Service at Old Basing	T Bell
Old Basing 10.30 am	S Turner	John Smith	Revd Claire Simpson, S	P Frank, United Service	T Rowell

***Basingstoke & Reading Circuit – Basingstoke Churches – April 2024***

Dates	7 April	14 April	21 April	28 April
Trinity / St Andrew's 10.30 am	John Smith	S Turner	Rev Barbara McIntivey	S Appiah
Church of Living Stream 10.30 am	Rev Claire Simpson	J Skeet	P Frank	Rev David Jenkins
Oakley 10.30 am	T Rowell	Rev David Jenkins	LA	Rev Claire Simpson, S
Oakridge 10.30 am	Mrs P Jose	Rev Claire Simpson, S	Mrs S Whithorn	C Marsh
Old Basing 10.30 am	LA	T Bell	Rev Claire Simpson, S	Mrs L Hoe

- *People are like tea bags – you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are – Anon*



**Basingstoke & Reading Circuit – Basingstoke Churches – May 2024**

Dates	5 May	12 May	19 May Pentecost	26 May Trinity Sunday
Trinity / St Andrew's 10.30 am	Rev Claire Simpson, S	LA, Parade	Mrs S Whithorn	Rev Barbara McIntivey
Church of Living Stream 10.30 am	Rev Dr J Mather	T Bell	Rev Jenny Dowding	Rev Claire Simpson
Oakley 10.30 am	T Bell	S Appiah	John Smith	T Rowell
Oakridge 10.30 am	LA	S Turner	Rev Claire Simpson, C	S Appiah, United Service
Old Basing 10.30 am	S Appiah	N Graham	Rev David Jenkins, S	United Service at Oakridge

## Scams Warnings

The [Little Book of Big Scams 5<sup>th</sup> edition](#) is produced by the Metropolitan Police to make you aware of the latest and most prolific scams.

### Ten golden rules to prevent fraud

**Remember these ten golden rules to help you prevent fraud and beat the scammers.**

1. Be suspicious of all 'too good to be true' offers and deals. There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes.
2. Don't agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to get independent or legal advice before making a decision.
3. Don't hand over money or sign anything until you've checked someone's credentials and their company's.
4. Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment you're not comfortable with.
5. Never give banking or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it.
6. Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links in an email.
7. Don't just rely on glowing testimonials. Find solid, independent evidence of a company's success.
8. Always get independent or legal advice if an offer involves money, time or commitment.
9. If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help.
10. Don't be embarrassed about reporting a scam. Because the scammers are cunning and clever there's no shame in being deceived. By reporting it, you'll make it more difficult for them to deceive others.

**Taken from our Circuit Website**

**Our minister, Revd Claire Simpson**, has added a 'YouTube Video' to our website in which she talks about **Lent** and what it means to her. She should get an Oscar for it!

You can find it on the website ([www.churchlivingstream.co.uk](http://www.churchlivingstream.co.uk)) by scrolling down towards the bottom of the Home page and clicking on YouTube videos (there are also other videos by Claire and other folk), **Ian H**

## **'TUESDAY COFFEE CLUB'**

Come and enjoy a '*cuppa and chat*', everyone very welcome. We run alongside the **Mug & Biscuit** at the back of the church from **10 am till 11.30 am**, so finish in plenty of time to grab lunch from the Mug & Biscuit!

We aim to stay open **all year apart from Christmas.**

**Di Spencer**



Pixabay



**World Day of Prayer**   
**Friday 1 March 2024, 2pm**

**St Michael's Church**

*Church Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7QW*

**The Theme is 'Palestine',  
 'A Theme of Love & Reconciliation'**

**All are Welcome**

[www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

## **The Fountain Prayer Group**

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

**on: Thursday 14 March**

**Thursday 28 March**

**Thursday 11 April**



We will gather at 2.30 pm and begin at 2.45 pm with a short reflection.

The rest of our time together will include a period of silence and some prayerful sharing. We will finish the formal part of the meeting at around 4 pm.

Please come even if you cannot attend every meeting.

**Angela Webb**

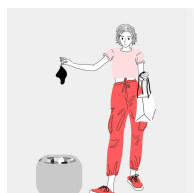
[angela@webbfamily.org.uk](mailto:angela@webbfamily.org.uk)

## **Litter**

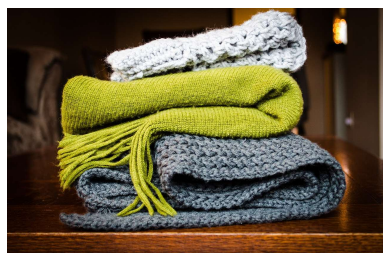
We have a gang of litter pickers who clean the surrounding area of the church, in pairs. Usually the rota would call upon those people hopefully, once every two months.

As the church is surrounded on three sides by a public right of way you can gather the amount of litter deposited, (*and variety*). The Gang has depleted in numbers so they have to be on duty more often.

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



Pixabay



## Spring Sale

### Saturday 9 March

### 12 noon – 3 pm



St Andrew's Church, South Ham

**Good quality items for sale** (*not jumble*), can be left at St Andrews from 20 February, during *Mug & Biscuit Opening Times*:



Tuesday: 10.00 am – 1.30 pm  
Wednesday: 10.00 am – 1.30 pm  
Thursday: 10.00 am – 1.30 pm



There will also be *Light Snacks, Cakes & Drinks* available and **Plants** for sale too.

**If you can help to 'Man a Stall' for all or part of the day please let Linda know:** ☎ 01256 417219 / email: [lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk)



## South Ham Churches Lunch Club

St Andrews, St Josephs and St Peters run a Lunch Club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, 12.30 pm, at St Joseph's Church, St Pauls Road.



This is open to the over 55's at a cost of £5 per head. More information can be gained from the **Churches Co-coordinator, Hannah Lock**.

If you would like to be a helper more information can be gained from **Bob Lock, the Methodist Co-ordinator**.

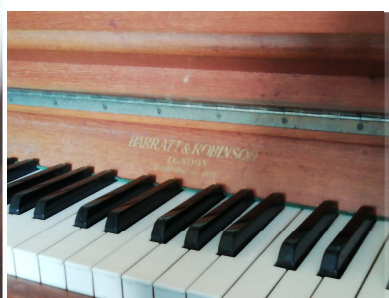


## Lovely Piano & Stool – 'Free to Good Home',

**Make:** Barrett & Robinson, 7½ Octaves,  
Purchased new in 1971, will need tuning.

**Contact:** Rose Holstein – 01256 781780

**'New Owner' is responsible for arranging & payment of removal of piano.**



Photos by Pete





## **Christian Musical April 2024**

We have invited the team from **Christian Music Ministries** to lead us in presenting **"Wildfire"**, a musical about 'Stephen', the first Christian martyr, at Christ Church Chineham on:

**Saturday 13 April 2024 at 4.30pm**

**Refreshments from 4 pm**

***You are all invited to come to this.***

You may remember that the circuit was supported by CMM in the production of **"3 Camels"** at Wesley last November and **"Apostle"** at Trinity in 2019. I know that many found the presentation of a familiar story in a different way to be both enjoyable and valuable.

We will be looking for narrators, singers and musicians to present the musical. You would spend the day rehearsing under the tutelage of the CMM conductor. For planning purposes please could you let me know if you would like to take part. Also, if you would like to offer as a musician, please can we chat about what instrument(s) you play.

Ruth Midcalf will provide some rehearsal and familiarisation sessions on the evenings of **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at Tadley Common Methodist Church** to help us ensure that the presentation is truly worshipful and so we encourage you to come to some of these. There will also be a **familiarisation session at Christ Church on Wednesday 10 April.**

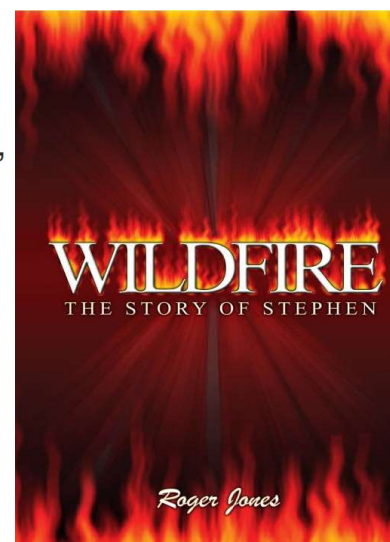
If you would like to take part but cannot come for the whole day, then this should be fine, but please would you let me know.

We also need people to help out with 'Back of House' activities – catering, welcoming, moving tables and chairs etc; again please let me know if you think you could help.

If you want to know more, please contact me at: [david@webbfamily.org.uk](mailto:david@webbfamily.org.uk) or ☎: 07848 843360.

***Many thanks, David Webb***

***(The remaining pictures are on the opposite page)***



**WILDFIRE** is a musical about Stephen, the first of Jesus' followers to die for his faith (Acts 6 and 7). Starting on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit came with tongues of fire, we follow Stephen's ministry of service in the early church. Stephen was a man with heaven in his heart, prepared to defend the truth before the religious leaders of his day, and to die with forgiveness on his lips, as Jesus did. From this point in history, the Gospel spread like wildfire throughout the known world.

Music by *Roger Jones*

Lyrics and narrations by Alison Fuggle

Orchestral parts by Annie Routley

### **Characters**

Stephen	Rhoda (Stephen's mother)
Lydia (Stephen's wife)	Paul
Anna (Stephen's daughter)	Philip (non-singing, see WILDFIRE drama)

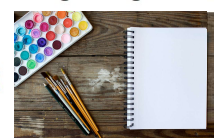
In the concert version of the musical there are also two witnesses to Stephen's story who are followers of Jesus.

### **WILDFIRE Products available**

Vocal score £7.99 | CD £9.99 | Backing Tracks £9.99 | DVD £7.99  
Xtras (words, orchestral parts, audience leaflet etc.) £12.99

[www.cmm.org.uk](http://www.cmm.org.uk) | [sales@cmm.org.uk](mailto:sales@cmm.org.uk) | 01527 576440

**'Crafting Bits' – message from Yvonne Hunt: If anyone wants some Crafting Bits** (we have paints, coloured sand, felt, google eyes, lollipop sticks and much, much more, I also have an Easter box with lots of plastic eggs if anyone is doing a hunt) please contact Yvonne at: [Outreach@BRMC.uk](mailto:Outreach@BRMC.uk)



Pixabay

## Songs

1. I was glad (Psalm 122)
2. Tongues of fire - Wildfire, just as He promised
3. Heaven's come to my heart
4. God doesn't just live in a building
5. My song is love unknown
6. It was so much better in the past
7. Signs and wonders - Come Holy Spirit
8. Isn't it alarming! - Paul and the religious leaders
9. I see heaven and the Son of Man - the stoning of Stephen
10. Scattered salt—Wildfire, just as He promised
11. On the way to believing—Knowing Him
12. Come, let us join our cheerful songs
13. It's all about Jesus—Wildfire (reprise)
14. I was glad (reprise)

'Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'

Acts 7:55-56

## Also available



### Spirit Works

A practical workbook with lots of activities for individuals, groups and congregations.

Price: £8.99

Rooted in local church worship, Roger Jones, Helen Pollard and Annie Routley share the joy and excitement of living life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

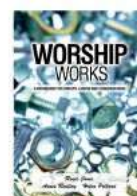


### Worship Works

A practical handbook, rooted in local church worship, with lots of activities for individuals, groups and congregations.

Price: £8.99

Roger Jones, Annie Routley and Helen Pollard regularly bring teams of people to churches to teach on the different themes in the book. Contact CMM for more details.



### Roger Jones: Musical Man

A biography of Roger Jones written by Graham Allan.

This book tells the story from Roger's early life in inner city Birmingham to his work as composer and director of Christian Music Ministries.

Price: £7.99



[www.cmm.org.uk](http://www.cmm.org.uk) | [office@cmm.org.uk](mailto:office@cmm.org.uk) | 01527 576440

## Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:

**Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson**

☎: 01256 323103 / email: [revclaire72@btinternet.com](mailto:revclaire72@btinternet.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Church Contacts: Joint Senior Stewards:**

**Diane Bath:** ☎ 01256 320429 /  
email: [dianeath51@gmail.com](mailto:dianeath51@gmail.com)

**Linda Hoe:** ☎: 01256 417219 /  
email: [lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk)

\* \* \* \* \*

**St Andrew's Bookings: Contact: Bob Lock**

email: [robertlock1@virgnmedia.com](mailto:robertlock1@virgnmedia.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Trinity E-News Editor: Hazel Harris – email:**

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:

**Basingstoke & Reading Circuit**

**Website:**

[www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](http://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk)

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**Circuit Administrator is:**

**Mrs Marion Young** and can be  
contacted on: ☎ **07503 652961**

(working hours only) & email:  
[marion@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk](mailto:marion@basingstokereadingmethodists.uk)

\* \* \* \* \*

**• The one who kneels to the Lord  
can stand up to anything – Anon**

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Boys Brigade

**Boys Brigade** – especially the 5 – 8 year-old boys – If there are any boys out there with nothing to do on a Friday night between 6.30 pm – 7.45 pm, it's £2 per session and boys can come any Friday to see what we do and if they want to join us on a regular basis that would be great. **Theresa Strachan**

**ST ANDREW'S / TRINITY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

1. **Welcome:** Revd.Claire welcomed 26 members to the meeting.
2. **Opening Devotions:** Prayers were said by Revd Claire.
3. **Apologies:** KC, VE and EB
4. **Minutes of the Meeting** held on 27 November 2023 were accepted as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising:**

Communication: There is now **one generic e-mail list** for communications. PH said that if any member continues to receive some duplicated e-mails, then contact the sender and ask them to remove you from their list.

DW pointed out that St Andrew's has two **notice boards** and asked if they can be used to display all Notices and other items for those members who do not have access to the internet? BL confirmed that the notice boards could be used, and DB said she would arrange to have the Notices typed up and posted on the boards each week.

Revd Claire reminded the meeting that we are still looking for a volunteer to fulfil the role of **Communications person**.

6. **Property and Lettings:**

BL reported that Lettings have increased.

Plaque: JL volunteered to liaise with NC to agree some appropriate wording for the plaque to commemorate the long and important association between both the Boys and Girls Brigades with Trinity Church.

Nativity Items: Storage has been arranged.

7. **Finance:**

SW had produced a financial summary for St Andrews / Trinity to the end of January 2024 but she was waiting for information on budgets.

Gift Aid: Ex Trinity members, who are tax payers, and who previously gift aided their freewill giving, will be required to complete a new gift aid form for St Andrews. It was agreed that HB will arrange for the forms to be available for completion after Sunday worship. Standing Orders: Any member wishing to set up a standing order for freewill giving can obtain the St Andrews bank details from SW.

Sunday Worship Offering: It was confirmed after discussion, that gift aid can be claimed on the Sunday offering providing that there is no greater single denomination than a £20 note. Larger sums may be given but they must be made up with smaller notes.

Circuit Assessments: MH reported that next week there will be a discussion taking place on new assessments which will be based on figures from a year ago. Circuit will look at the funds we have, and set the assessment based on the money you have, membership and freewill giving.

MH confirmed that she will still be responsible for Trinity accounts until the building is finally closed.

HSBC Bank: MH reported that HSBC will now accept dual on-line banking, and Church Council agreed that MH will arrange a Finance Group meeting for the six St Andrews people who are already involved in finance to arrange some training as the church will

*cont'd.....*



***Church Council Meeting continued.....***

no longer issue cheques. Michael Parker was proposed as a seventh person. The Finance Group is SW, MH, LF, DB, LH, BL, MP.

Bowling Club Donation: Revd Claire asked for suggestions as to which charity we would choose to donate the £200. Several suggestions were put forward. After discussion, it was agreed £100 to the Camrose Centre and £100 to the Foodlink.

Church Fees: It was agreed that the following fees would apply from 2024:-

Weddings	£150
Funerals	£100
Organist	£50
Stewards	£25 per steward
Technical	£25 if required
Flowers	Bespoke

The above fees would be waived if the service was for a Church member (or close relative of a Church member), or someone who was a regular worshipper at the Church.

Donations Received: £100 from the U5 Playtime Group

Donations from the funeral of Jack Evans.

**8. Reports from other Groups:**

BB and U5 TS reported that U5 had welcomed several new families. 7 BB boys had attended summer camp. Still looking for more boys for Anchor Group. Overall BB remains very positive and remain the largest company in the Battalion.

Worship Group

Revd Claire reported on the Worship Group and she emphasised that all are welcome to attend the Worship Group meetings.

Lent

PA drew attention to the Lent Group scheduled to meet for 5 weeks starting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. She has all the materials required and those interested should contact PA. Details will be in the Notices. LF offered to produce a slide and BL said that if required, the screens in the main hall can be moved across to make a smaller space.

Prayer Groups:

Revd Claire talked about the different aspects of Prayer Ministry that are part of the life of the church, some already happening and others, yet to get started.

From time to time it would be advantageous for all those involved in the different prayer groups to come together as one group to share and encourage each other eg: The Fountain Prayer Group, The Prayer Link, Healing Prayer etc.

Healing Prayers:

PA will talk about this new initiative after Sunday Worship. This new group has seven members, KC, DB, JB, PW, PA, JS, BM.

Audio/Visual Tech Group:

Prior to the meeting DW circulated the following proposal to Church Council members "That a working party be asked to investigate ways of improving the audio visual

*cont'd.....*

**Church Council Meeting continued.....**

experience in the Main Hall, report back on possible solutions, and to manage the chosen solution.” DW gave a concise explanation of the scale, costs, and implications for the users of the Main Hall. He had gathered together a Project Team of nine people – MF, LF, BL, MP, TP, DW, PH, plus two external specialists. After considerable discussions, the proposal was agreed by the majority present.

Pastoral Group Meeting: A meeting will be held on 26 February 2024 at 2.00pm and existing members are invited to attend. LF will put a slide up on Sunday Worship.

Mission and Outreach: Revd Claire wanted to get this group off the ground and a meeting date has been arranged for 19 March 2024, and the initial group will be JAM, U5, Foodlink, OTB and the Mug & Biscuit. Main Hall 2.00pm.

Children and Families Meeting: A meeting has been arranged for 2 April 2024 at 2.00pm in the Mug & Biscuit. Youth Groups, Boys Brigade.

**9. Safeguarding/ GDPR:**

MH confirmed that all DBS checks have been completed and she thanked all those who have attended the Safeguarding training groups. There will be an ‘all day’ Advanced Training course on the 11 May 2024 at Oakridge.

Revd Claire will liaise with PA to collect the existing **GDPR** information.

**10. Name of our New Church Community / Logo**

Revd Claire asked the members how we go about this process. MF suggested that we draw up a list of names that can be put to a vote. There was much discussion on possible names, and many sincere, impassioned speeches for, and against. It was emphasised that although the building will always be St Andrews, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are a new Church community that meets at South Ham. YH pointed out that we already have a logo which is the round window in the Main Hall. The name of ‘South Ham Methodist Church at St Andrews Centre’ was put forward as a new name, and after further discussions Revd Claire considered that sufficient members of the Church Council were minded to adopt the new name. It was agreed that the proposal should go out to Church members after Easter, via a ballot paper, which will be something like:

“A number of people in St Andrews / Trinity Church Council have minded to propose the following name change for our new Church community, to be called

South Ham Methodist Church at St Andrews Centre

Would you please let us have your view on the proposed name.

Do you agree with the suggested name?

I prefer a different name and suggest .....

I would like it to remain as St Andrews Church

The name is not important to me, I remain neutral.

**11. Any Other Business:**

Sunday Worship: DB mentioned that when the candle is shown on the screen people continue chatting and the Church is very noisy. It was agreed that at 10.25 am the congregation will be invited to be still and prepare themselves for worship.

*cont'd.....*

**Church Council Meeting continued.....**The Proposed Amalgamation of the Kennet and Test Valley Circuit with the Basingstoke and Reading Circuit

The details of this proposed merger was sent to all Church Council members who were asked to give any feedback. Church Council were not required to vote on this proposal, but the Circuit will.

The Singing Group: It was confirmed that this had now been reinstated.

Farewells: Revd Claire mentioned that Jennifer and Tony Pitt would soon be leaving Hampshire. Revd Claire thanked Tony and Jennifer for giving so generously of their time and energy to our Church and Circuit over many years, and wished them all the best in their future home.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

**13 May 2024 at 2.00pm in the Main Hall.** The meeting closed with The Grace.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Church Council Members Elected****At Church General Meeting  
1 October 2023****Senior Stewards**

Diane Bath  
Linda Hoe

**Stewards**

Jenny Leighton  
Peggy Wood  
Edna Rawlins  
Bob Lock  
Katrina Cox

**Church Congregational  
Representatives**

Michael Parker  
Margin Frost  
Llyn Frost  
Pauline Ansell  
Theresa Strachan  
Eileen Bethell  
Peter Harris  
Viviann Edwards  
Sue Doust  
Tony Pitt

**Church Council Secretary**

Barbara Johnson

**At Church Council Meeting  
30 October 2023**

Sarah Whithorn (Treasurer)  
Peter Ansell  
Ann Walker  
Revd Angela Webb  
David Webb  
Hillary Reid  
Helen Blake

**Circuit Representatives**

Bob Lock  
Viviann Edwards

**Outreach**

Yvonne Hunt

**Circuit Steward**

Stephen Appiah

**Safeguarding Officer**

Margaret Hayes  
(Jenny Leighton Liaison)

\* \* \* \* \*



## Sound and Vision in our Main Hall

Many people say that they find it difficult to hear what is said in the Sunday services, or to see what is on the screen, or both. Church Council has therefore decided to investigate what could be done to improve this, and is looking for your views.

We are asking people if they can fill in a short survey. **The surveys will be at the back of church every Sunday.**

If there is more than one of you in a household, please fill in one survey form each.

The survey is completely confidential; we are not asking you to put your name on it.

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please either see me after a service, or email me at [david@webbfamily.org.uk](mailto:david@webbfamily.org.uk). Please also contact me, or one of the Church stewards, if you would rather not fill in this survey.

We encourage you to take your time in filling in this survey. You may be able to answer the questions better after more than one Sunday service. But if possible, we would like the survey returned by Easter.

**There will be a meeting for everyone to come and share their views at 2pm on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April.** You would be very welcome at this whether or not you have filled in the survey.

Thank you, **David Webb**



Images Pixabay

## SAYING GOODBYE

Several people have asked me about the poem I read recently at my husband David's funeral. It seems to be quite widely available on the internet and the author is anonymous.

It spoke to me because when we lose a loved one, especially a partner, apart from the sadness and grief, there is the feeling of being alone and apart from the physical presence of somebody who shared our life in so many ways. I think many of us do talk to a picture in a frame or to our lost loved one in other ways as if they were still with us.

Memories are precious too, although it can be a bittersweet experience remembering times past and wishing we could live them all over again.

**Anne Rowe**

But, in the final instance, I have to agree with the poet Alfred Tennyson who said;

*"Tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all."*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Sadly, unable to print poem as appears attributed to two authors, copyright (links below for poem):*

[I Thought of You With Love Today – Charlottes Art](#) Author shown as – Charlotte V W Greer.

<https://www.funeralinspirations.co.uk/funeral-poems/i-thought-of-you-with-love-today-poem/>

Author shown as – Leo Marks.

<https://www.lilymaefoundation.org/i-thought-of-you-today> – on this site shown as 'Author Unknown'.

## Spring

'While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will not cease.'  
(Genesis 8 v.22).



It is a yearly miracle, happening annually. It is regular, and that is probably why we dismiss it. We live in a world of sensationalism, and we may give the casual glance at the snowdrops, the crocus, followed by the daffodils, and the tulips. A brief acknowledgement. Later the brown woodland earth, will be covered with bluebells.

When I was a child, we used to sing in our small music group,

*'Such a lovely world He made, bounded by the sea.  
Filled with beauty everywhere, just for you and me.'  
'The weeds grow too, but what are they? Just flowers in the wrong place.  
That is in our neat gardens, where unbidden they appear.'*

All of this, and our lives, so easily taken for granted. Every day is a gift. Every day, not just the special days, but every day.

When I was 16 years old, I had an autograph book. I still have it. An old lady, who I respected wrote this:

*'You are waiting for me, in your book to write,  
Pray dear maid, what shall I indite?  
One can say little, or very much,  
lightly pass, or the heart cords touch.  
Mine I would wish to bear to you,  
a thought, a prayer, a message true.  
Life can be beautiful,  
if you seek, beauty within your heart to keep.  
With the fruit of the Spirit growing there.  
You can be gracious maiden fair.'*

May we see beauty today in God's world, and in each other.

God bless you.

**Margaret Garland**

Image Pixabay

## **Tax Payers, When a Member of Trinity**

**"If you were previously a member at Trinity and are a tax-payer, you will need to complete a New Gift Aid Form so that tax can now be reclaimed via St Andrews. Please see [Helen Blake](#) who has the required forms.**

As a church we are able to claim back some of the tax you pay on your regular giving so, if you are a taxpayer and you haven't completed a form before but would like to now, please also see [Helen](#). Thankyou.

## Why I Joined the R.A.F.

I have been asked many times "Why did you volunteer for the R.A.F. in 1941?"



I was no hero, I was a 19 year old boy who knew that eventually he would be called up and put into one of the services. I wanted to go in the R.A.F. and I found out that anyone who had been in the Air Cadets who volunteered usually got in the R.A.F. I had therefore decided to wait until I was nearly called up and I would then volunteer. Then the following happened.

I had been home for my dinner and was cycling back to work when I heard a plane. I could not see it so I pulled to the side of the road by a house and it appeared – it was a German Dornier Bomber and it passed me and followed the road quite low and I heard a machine gun. It was not policy in those days to print in the papers but being local I found out what had happened. This bomber had tried for the docks and dropped three bombs and then came past me following the road and just passed me, it machine gunned a civilian bus. The bombing of the docks was the war but the gunning was something very different.....

I then decided that brutality was in the German make-up. This was confirmed later on with the shooting of prisoners, the wasting of entire villages and of course the holocaust.

This is why I volunteered earlier than I expected.

**Nobby**

Image Pixabay

**Next Silchester Retreat Day, Wednesday 6 March**, Refreshments 9.45 am. **Page 22** for all the info and how to book your place.

### Wednesday 6th March Hands

How do we use our hands?  
How do we speak of the "hands of God"?

*See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;*

Isaiah 49:16 (NIV)



- ***Treasures in heaven are laid up only as treasures on earth are laid down – Anon***

### Oakley Methodist Church



**Coffee Mornings: February**

**10.30 am – 12 noon**

**Tuesdays 12 & 26 March**

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

**Paperbacks available 30p each**

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

**Bereavement Care Awareness Training:** Nicki Wisdom, Bereavement Support Co-Ordinator for CTM Parish, has organised a Bereavement Care Awareness Training event to take place on Saturday 9 March at St John's Church Caversham RG4 5AN. It will run from 10 am – 1.30 pm and will be led by a trainer from Care for the Family. It is for anyone who wants to understand a bit more about loss and grief and how to support people who are bereaved. The cost is £15 per person and booking is through this link: <https://ctmparish.churchsuite.com/forms/4tizsedz> Those who book will be sent details of how to pay. If you need more information do contact [nicki@ctmparish.org.uk](mailto:nicki@ctmparish.org.uk)



## Journey

We are always on a journey. Journeys have beginnings and ends,  
Life is a journey, but we travel many journeys, on our passage through life.  
We don't always realise we have started a journey, or when the journey has ended.  
We find ourselves on journeys we don't want to start and likewise we don't want  
to end.

We travel along many paths and more than one journey at a time.  
In our minds, we journey forward with our hopes and aspirations,  
We journey backwards into our past, often with longing or regrets.  
Do we take time on our journey to walk in the present and see what is at hand?

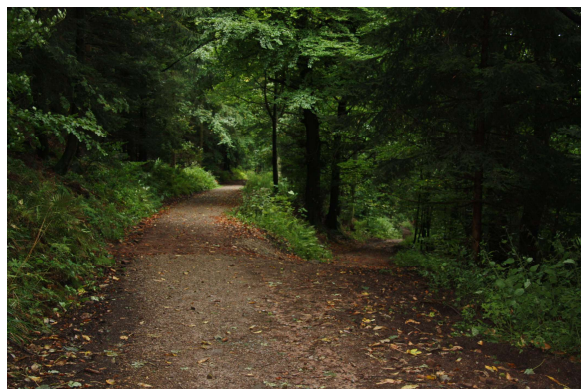
Sometimes we need companions on the journey,  
Sometimes we have to travel alone, with only prayers for support.  
Our companions may walk with us only for a short while;  
others may see a journey through.  
Some will never know they have travelled with us at all -  
such is the power of a word or touch.

Our journeys make us who we are.  
Our pain enables us to reach out to others in pain.  
Our joys help us to rejoice when we may not want to.  
Each step we take along life's path, changes us and those around us.

What Journey are you on?  
Have you recently completed a journey?  
Are you on a journey that you were unaware of?  
Do you need others to journey with you?

May the God who sets us on a journey,  
Travel by our sides  
With strength for today and hope for tomorrow.  
May Gods blessings be with us all.

***By Jennifer Pitt***



*Jennifer's own photo*

***Following on from Ian's 'Favourite Things' in last month's Trinity E-News, this month we have Martin Frost's. I'm looking forward to receiving more, Ed.***

\* \* \* \* \*

## **A Few of My Favourite Things**

***These are a few of my 'Favourite Things' inspiring me on my ongoing Christian Journey in Faith.***

### **Old Testament verse**

I get strength from Isaiah 40:28-31, particularly verse 31, *"but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles."* Just imagine!

### **New Testament verse**

This for me is The Sheep and Goats (Mat 25:31-46). This clearly tells us that Faith without Works is death. The Word clearly instructs us that we should be active amongst the poor and needy and those in distress, and provide for them, without thought of reward, in accordance with our abilities. Challenging!

### **Hymn**

Here I Am Lord, also known as *'I, the Lord of Sea and Sky'* is my favourite. It is a modern Hymn and maybe should be seen as a Song. It clearly identifies our Lord as the creator of the heavens and earth and in control of it, and His calling to us to work for Him. The chorus defines *"I will go Lord if you lead me"*, I sing this as *"where you lead me"*. Why? We have a personal relationship with our Lord, and know that He will always lead us, no if about it. The question therefore is **where?**

### **Film / TV**

My favourite has to be *'Jesus Christ Superstar'*, the iconic musical / film production featuring the ministry, trial and crucifixion of Christ. Set in the deserts of Israel it identifies the human frailties of man and our desire for wealth and power in the characters portrayed, such as Caiaphas, Herod and Pontius Pilot. We can identify them in today's world. Jesus is clearly portrayed as our Saviour, suffering the terrible pain of crucifixion to pay for our transgressions. The story does not include the Resurrection as it is seen through the eyes of Judas who does not live to witness it.

### **Book**

*'Dominion, The Making of the Western Mind'*, by Tom Holland. It is a deep analysis of what we see as right and wrong, and how these convictions bear witness to the most enduring and influential legacy of the ancient world, a revolution in values that has proven transformative like nothing in history: Christianity. Even though we see increasing numbers of people abandoning the faith, Christianity's enduring impact is embedded in our minds and our actions. Not a light read!

### **Song**

Very difficult to select a favourite song as we have so many. But let us go for *'Mary, Did You Know'*? It has been sung by many artists but I prefer Pentatonix harmonious version. It is an inspiration to our Christian Faith!

***Cont'd.....***

- ***30 years ago, on 12 March 1994 the first women priests in the Church of England were ordained.***

### ***A Few of My Favourite Things, cont'd.....***

#### **Someone from history who inspires me**

Oskar Schindler. Known to all of us through the film Schindler's List. He was a German industrialist during the Second World War who saved the lives of 1,200 Jews who worked in his factories by bribing Nazi officials and relocating his employees away from the extermination camps. What better example to all of us to *"Love your neighbour as yourself"*!

#### **A place where I feel close to God**

Our God is always with us wherever we are, but it helps us to have a quiet and peaceful place close to us to be with Him and talk with Him. Mine is the Vyne National Trust Woods near Basingstoke. A place to walk, sit, meditate, and be part of the nature of His creation.

#### **An impressive faith building**

The Al Fatah Grand Mosque Bahrain is certainly a most impressive faith building, Built in the 1980s it is one of the largest mosques in the world, Throughout the mosque is Kufic calligraphy. It is an attraction to tourists as well as local worshippers. As a tourist some 10 years ago I took a guided tour around the mosque ending with a discussion with the lady Muslim tour guide on the ministry of Jesus, a prophet in the Muslim faith. We could not agree of course, and I advised her to talk with the Holy Spirit for guidance. This resulted in me being aggressively ordered to leave the mosque immediately, which I did, or be arrested.

I have no regrets in what I said, as Jesus himself was thrown out of the synagogue in Nazareth during his ministry (Luke 4:28-30), and we all are guided by Him in our ministries.

#### **A memorable journey**

A week's holiday in Jordan with my daughter Jasmine some 10 years ago was a memorable journey as we travelled from north to south visiting some of the many historical sites there. These included Roman Jerash, Crusader and Islamic fortresses, the famed Madaba mosaic floor map of the Holy Land, and finally the ancient Nabatean city of Petra. The high spot of the journey was walking the Siq gorge in the early morning in Petra to see the sun rising on the Treasury building. **See pictures.**

***Martin Frost  
February 2024***

***Photos by Martin Frost***



- 60 years ago, on 19 March 1964 proposals for three new cities in south-east England were announced, due to an expected population boom. They became the new town of Milton Keynes, and a significant expansion of existing towns of Havant and Basingstoke.



## Care Home Ministry in Basingstoke

There are several members in our Basingstoke churches who are involved in Care Home Ministry in one way or another. At the very end of January a small group of us met together to share what we are already doing, to discuss whether we might be able to work more collaboratively and to consider whether we would like to grow this ministry and, if so, how we might do this.

### So what's already happening?

#### ***Barchester St Thomas Care Home***



Nigel Merry and Andrew Stead, lay reader at St Michael's, provide a monthly service (no sermon) on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.



Nigel leads a weekly Men's Club with activities on a Friday afternoon. These visits include pastoral / befriending conversations. There are also 'special' events at Christmas, Easter etc. A Catholic minister also visits.



#### ***Barchester Ashcombe House***

Marianne Sales and an ecumenical team visit every Thursday morning during term-time for Bible Storytelling followed by some pastoral / befriending conversations with both Staff and residents. During the school holidays we continue to go in at the same time but we do something different (at present this is a Bible verse, followed by a short reflection, a prayer and a hymn). After a recent session one of the residents said 'it was wonderful, it made the day'. It is amazing that such a small amount of our time can make such a big difference to the residents.



Since September we have started to offer a Communion service at Christmas and Easter. We did a Nativity Carol service this last year as well. Marianne goes in separately and plays the piano – usually short extracts from classical works, but carols at Christmas and Old Time Music Hall songs from time to time.



#### ***Oakridge House***

In times past there used to be a group from Oakridge church who visited this Care Home. Christine Embleton has re-established the link by providing a Carol service in 2022 and 2023. An Easter service is being planned. Claire has been to visit individual residents separately.

#### ***Lady Susan Court***

A monthly Communion Service is held here. Claire shares in the leadership of this, alternating with an Anglican colleague from St Michael's.

*cont'd...*



## Oak Lodge, Oakley

At present Edna Rawlins visits two Trinity members who are residents in this Care Home. We were all surprised at just how much valuable work we are already involved with in our Care Homes.

## How might we develop the work?

At Ashcombe House Marianne is considering the possibility of formalising Sunday afternoons to include some befriending whilst she is playing the piano.

Claire is considering the possibility of introducing some Bible Study at Lady Susan Court where we have resident.

A resident at Basingfield Court is a member at Old Basing. The possibility of linking with members from Old Basing and providing a sing-song on a monthly basis was discussed. Marianne would be willing to work with the members of Old Basing and play for this if they are interested.



## Anna Chaplaincy

<https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk>

Claire talked about Anna chaplaincy and is investigating the possibility of some training for anyone interested.

## So how might you help?

We already have a small team of people who help us on an occasional basis. It would be really useful to 'grow' this team a bit so that if we need some extra singers for a Carol Service or another event we have a group of people we can call on – very often there is no requirement other than to go in at an agreed time and to talk to people.

You will probably need a current DBS certificate, but that can be arranged if necessary. Please talk to one of us if you would be willing to join our team of 'occasional helpers', even if only once a month, once every two months or even once a year at the annual Carol Service.

**Christine Embleton, Nigel Merry, Edna Rawlins, Marianne Sales, Rev Claire Simpson**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Notes sent to me as Editor of this newsletter, by Marianne Sales:

- The people whose names appear at the end of the article have all agreed to the content.
  - The photos used were all taken by the Care Homes (Ashcombe House and St Thomas') and given to us to use as we wish.
  - No residents appear in the photographs.
- 
- You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you – *James Allen*
  - Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar – *William Wordsworth*
  - You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you will live in torment if you don't trust enough – *Frank Crane*.
  - There are no short cuts to spiritual maturity. It takes time to be holy – *Erwin Lutzer*
  - Obedience is the key that unlocks the door to every profound spiritual experience – *Dorothy Kerin*

## RETREAT CENTRE SILCHESTER RG7 2NY PROGRAMME 2024



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

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

### Wednesday 6th March Hands

How do we use our hands?  
How do we speak of the "hands of God"?

*See, I have engraved you on the palms of my **hands**;*

Isaiah 49:16 (NIV)



### Saturday 27th April Pictures of Jesus

How have we pictured Jesus across the world, through the centuries?  
How do we see the face of Christ today?

*The Son is the **image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation.*  
Colossians 1:15 (NIV)



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

**Numbers are limited.**

**All days run from:**  
10 am – 3 pm.

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

**Suggested donation:**  
£10 per person.

**Location:**  **Paddle.worthy.windmill**

**Entrance:** from:  
**Pamber Road, RG7 2NY.**

**Car parking** and entrance to hall at rear of the church.

### Future 2024 Retreats:

- Wednesday 12 June
- Saturday 10 August
- Wednesday 2 October
- Saturday 23 November

### Wednesday 12th June Enfolded in Love

A day with Julian of Norwich

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

*Paul Hardingham considers that first Easter morning...(Parish Pump)*

## Looking for the Resurrection

An old couple are driving down the motorway when the wife gets a call from their daughter. *'Mum, there's a car driving the wrong way down the motorway!'* The wife warns her husband that there is a lunatic on the motorway. Her husband, clutching the wheel in terror, replies: *'One lunatic? There are dozens of them, all headed straight for us!'*

What we see is determined by our perspective on life.

In the Nicene Creed we say: *'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.'* In the gospel accounts of the Resurrection, there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early to the tomb. They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them: *'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him...He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him'* (Mark 16: 6,7).

Like the women we would probably have been left *'trembling and bewildered'* by what we saw that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Was Jesus raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?

Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair. Or we can look for resurrection and find not just an empty tomb, but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet us in our daily lives bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness and the assurance of His presence through the darkest of times. God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's resurrection life at work in our lives and the people around us.

## A Prayer sent in by Jenny Leighton (Author Unknown)

Lord, Make us willing to accept that change is essential for growth.

Make us willing to step out in faith.

Make us willing to give as well as receive.

May we be open to change and to Your leadership.

May we be open to new challenges.

Grant us wisdom to know the difference between what is of You and what is of us.

Grant us courage to face new ways of doing things.

And Grant us strength to support each other, Amen 🙏

**G** Get to know God  
**R** Respond in prayer  
**O** Obey God's Word  
**W** Walk in the power of Holy Spirit  
**T** Tell others  
**H** Have faith and fellowship.

## Newsletter – 'Events / Contributions / Dates'

Please let me know if you have **Events, 'Dates for Diaries' or any other contribution** that you would like included or promoted in **'OUR'**

**Newsletter. Thank you all in advance, Hazel, Ed. (Items can be: bible passages, prayers, poems, stories, outings, holidays, events or anything else you would like included).**





## The Mug & Biscuit at St Andrew's Church is Open on:



Hours of opening are:

**Tuesday: 10 am to 1.30 pm**

**Wednesday: 10 am to 1.30 pm**

**Thursday: 10 am to 1.30 pm**



- We serve: **home-made cakes, jacket potatoes, toasted sandwiches & tea cakes.**
- Menu is subject to change. **Last Orders for hot food 1 pm.**
- Takeaway Available. Credit Cards Accepted.

**The Mug & Biscuit is NOT OPEN during School Holidays.**

**The Mug & Biscuit is registered as a 'Warm Hub Opening' during 'Mug & Biscuit' Hours**



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

## Mug & Biscuit Team



Any queries, **Offers of Help** – contact: **Linda Hoe** ☎: 07963 583506



## Old Basing Methodist Church

### CAMEO Club:

**Tuesday 19 March, between 11.30 am – 1 pm**

- **Light lunch provided. Bring along your crafts of choice.**  
\*\*\*\*\*
- **Lent Bible Study Group jointly led by: Rev Claire Simpson & Rev Jo Mulliner – is on Thursdays at 2.30 pm on the 7, 14 & 21 March.**
- **Group Sessions to be held at St Mary's, Old Basing.**

**Gillian Smethurst**



### At 24.02.24 the Foodbank – **Most Needed:**

- Tinned fruit
- Custard
- Savoury Snacks / Crisps
- Hair Conditioner
- Squash
- Tinned Tomatoes

### At 24.02.24 the Foodbank – **Running Low:**

- Long Life Fruit Juice
- Loo Roll
- Cooking Sauces
- Deodorant
- Tinned Ravioli
- Semi Skimmed UHT Milk
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Veg
- Tinned Fruit

### At 24.02.24 the Foodbank – **Running Low:**

- Hot & Cold Desserts
- Toothpaste
- Nappies Size 5 and above
- Cat Food

**More info on web:**  
[www.https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/](http://www.https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/)

### **We have Plenty:**

- Pasta & Rice
- Tinned Soup
- Tinned Baked Beans
- Pulses
- Hot & Cold Cereal
- Non-Dairy Milk
- Sanitary Pads
- Baby Food, Formula & Nappies size 4 & below
- Hand Soap
- Dog Food





## Dear friends,

Further to our emails regarding the future of Christian resources in Newbury, Shoemakers bookshop in The Arcade has now closed.

As I mentioned in our previous email, I will continue to supply Christian resources to Newbury, Thatcham and the surrounding area, via bookstalls, mail order (email or phone) and via the website. However, I will now be doing this as **Sonrise Christian Resources**.

There will be a formal transfer of business data from Shoemakers to Sonrise Christian Resources. As part of this process, for GDPR purposes, please reply to this email if you do not wish your data to be transferred.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support at this time,

**Steve Wood (Manager)**



email: [steve@sonrisechristianresources.co.uk](mailto:steve@sonrisechristianresources.co.uk)

Telephone: 07396 825097

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sonrisechristianresources](https://www.facebook.com/sonrisechristianresources)

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## A Quiz for Easter – based on Matthew 27

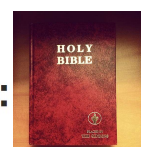
### Questions – (Answers on page 29) (PP)

1. Who planned to have Jesus executed?
2. To whom did they go for help to 'catch' Him?
3. What did they give in return for Jesus?
4. What did they do with Jesus?
5. What did Judas do then?
6. What did the governor ask Jesus?
7. What was the name of the other prisoner?
8. Why did Pilate wash his hands?
9. Who helped Jesus carry His cross?
10. What was the written charge?
11. When did darkness come over the land?
12. What did Jesus cry to God?



## Ukraine War: Help Support the Church in Ukraine with Bibles:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/getinvolved/donate/>



- All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life – **James Francis**

**Recycling of Plastic Milk Bottle Tops** – If you have plastic milk bottle tops (**only milk ones**) & would like to recycle them, Pamela has a contact with a collector for Hants & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Tops can be given to Pamela or ring the Bishop family on ☎: 01256 467702. Thank you. **June Bishop**



## Basingstoke & Reading Circuit Prayers March to May 2024

Taking a step of faith, even if we don't know the final destination

Walking in faith into the unknown, guided by the Spirit



AW

Going before me,  
You lead me on,  
Full of surprises,  
You help me see  
New possibilities,  
New facets of me.

Leading me gently,  
You show me the way,  
Challenge my certainties  
And make me see  
A glimpse of your purpose,  
What I could be.

Showing us yourself  
As we seek to obey,  
You draw us to you  
And help us see  
Our part in your mission,  
What we could be.

As we seek you further,  
You lead us on,  
As we travel together,  
You make us see  
To learn, we must be still and be.

Angela Webb Grace Upon Grace

## Thanking two kinds of Mother on 10 March

Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is the day for honouring our Mother Church, and has been celebrated since the Middle Ages. Mother's Day is an annual day to honour our mothers, and it began in America in May 1907. In the US, Canada, Australia and Mexico, Mother's Day is still held in May. In Britain, Mothers' Day is held on Mothering Sunday, so the two days are often merged in people's minds.

If you ask Google for ideas of how to be nice to your church on that day, you won't find much. But if you want to be kind to your mother that day, you will be spoilt for choice. High on all the lists are suggestions for taking her to lunch, giving flowers, a card, or paying for her to have a day doing something she loves.

## Thanking two kinds of Mother on 10 March (cont'd)

Whatever you choose to do, probably the best thing to give your mother must surely be yourself: some time and some love. Remind her of the funny and touching stories of your childhood and thank her for all the things that she did for you. Give her some good company and show her some gratitude. Let her know that you love her and appreciate her.

Remember that the Commandment 'Honour thy father and mother' was the first commandment that came with a promise of blessing on you, if you obey. *(taken from PP)*

Cont'd

## A prayer as we Dwell in the Word

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

**Dwelling in the Word text:** Hebrews 11: 8-12 NRSVA

### The faith of Abraham

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

<sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

<sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

<sup>11</sup> By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old - and Sarah herself was barren - because he considered him faithful who had promised.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

## Our young people are just so unhappy

Young people in the UK are feeling more lonely, and yet are less likely to have a stable relationship or friendship than they did, even a decade ago.

So finds the Boys Brigade, which carried out an extensive study as part of its recent 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary events.

Almost half of the young people questioned admitted that they were in regular mental distress, and yet had had no medical diagnosis or treatment.

Rates of self-harm, disability, and obesity have also gone up. One in every seven young people is even unhappy with their appearance.

## Our young people are just so unhappy (cont'd)

The study, *Youth Culture and Trends* also found that the shift to spending more time online with others, rather than in face-to-face relationships, mirrors a reported decline in the satisfaction with friendships and rise in loneliness. (PP)

- 65 years ago, on 9 March 1959 the Barbie doll was launched at the International Toy Fair in New York City. 9 March is Barbie's official birthday.



*Read slowly through the passage a couple of times and then find a word or phrase that jumps out to you and think what it is saying to you.*

### **Other examples of stepping into the unknown:**

Acts 8: 26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch

Acts 10:1 to 11:18 Peter and Cornelius

Acts 16: 6-15 Paul's vision of the man of Macedonia

*Read the passages from Acts and wonder about the Faith that was needed to follow God's call.*

*Ponder when and how you have heard God calling you.*

*Remember how you responded and how it felt.*

*Reflect on how it feels to follow God's direction when the outcome is unknown.*

*What is it like looking back?*

### **The story of aspirin**

You will probably have taken aspirin, in one form or other, many times. But how much do you know of its history?

It was 125 years ago this month, on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1899 that the German pharmaceutical company Bayer first patented aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid).

But this is based on salicylic acid, which was used in herbal medicines as far back as Sumerian times, in 2500 BC. It was then that the Assyrians used willow leaves for rheumatic disease. The Egyptians also used willow leaves, as well as myrtle, to ease joint pain or inflammation.

In Greece, Hippocrates (460-377 BC) recommended an extract of

*Cont'd...*

### **The story of Aspirin (continued)**

willow bark for fever, pain and childbirth. And even the peoples of ancient China, Rome, and Native America all discovered and used plants containing salicylic acid.

From 1763, willow bark was used a lot up until 1859. Finally, in early 1899 the new compound was named and registered Aspirin. The 'A' comes from acetyl and 'spir' from the first part of *Spirea ulmaria* (Meadowsweet) a botanical source of salicylic acid.



### Prayer for our Circuit

We pray for those who lead our Circuit: for Martin our Superintendent, for the Circuit Leadership Team, for Ministers, Circuit Stewards, Lay Employees, Church Stewards and for all of us in our local churches.

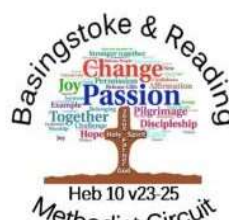
Guide us as we move towards becoming the Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Circuit; help us to encourage and inspire each other; excite us by signs of growth; lift us when we only see signs of decline; open our eyes to potential areas of local mission; deepen our compassion and understanding.

May our relationships be surrounded by grace and kindness. Lord of our lives, lead us forward as your people in the places where we are.  
Amen.

Gracious God,  
When your still small voice  
Prompts me with a nudge,  
Or speaks through another,  
May I be open to hear  
And willing to act in faith.

May my willingness become  
A concrete step forward  
To a place  
Where I can reflect  
With companions on the journey,  
Listen for the next prompt  
And take my next step of faith.

May each faithful response  
To your persistent prompts  
Be another expression  
Of your goodness and grace  
As we put our trust  
In your unfailing love.  
In Jesus name, we pray  
Amen



### Easter Prayer 2024

Almighty, God,  
You hold all things in  
Your hands. You make  
sense of everything!  
So often we only see  
where we are now,  
what we feel now, in  
this moment – but You  
know the end from the  
beginning.

In all our troubles, our  
assurance is in Your  
sovereignty, in Your  
mighty act of salvation.  
Thank you that, just as  
after winter comes  
spring and after night  
comes morning, so,  
most gloriously, after  
death on Good Friday,  
comes Resurrection on  
Easter Day!

**Christ is Risen** – and  
we can know, by the  
indwelling of his Holy  
Spirit, that **He is risen  
indeed!**

We can know, in our  
real and every-day  
lives, where our help  
comes from.

Hallelujah! Thank  
you, living Lord,  
In Jesus name, Amen

**by Daphne Kitching  
(Parish Pump)**

### Answers to Easter Quiz from page 25:

1. *All the chief priests and elders.*
2. *Judas.*
3. *30 pieces of silver.*
4. *Bound Him and handed Him to Pilate the governor.*
5. *Threw the money into the temple and hanged himself.*
6. *Are you the King of the Jews?*
7. *Barabbas.*
8. *To proclaim that he was innocent of Jesus' blood.*
9. *Simon of Cyrene.*
10. *This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.*
11. *From noon until three.*
12. *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*



### Your will

Father, I wait Thy daily will;  
Thou shalt divide my  
portion still;  
Grant me on earth  
what seems Thee best,  
Till death and heaven  
reveal the rest.

**by Isaac Watts (PP)**

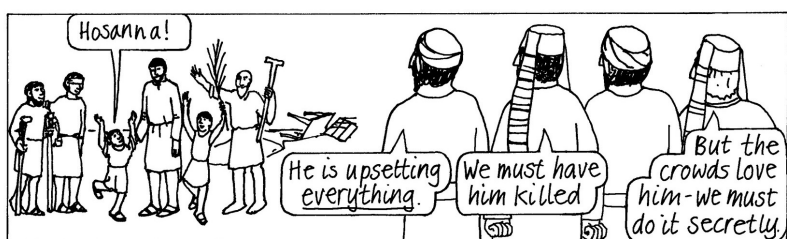
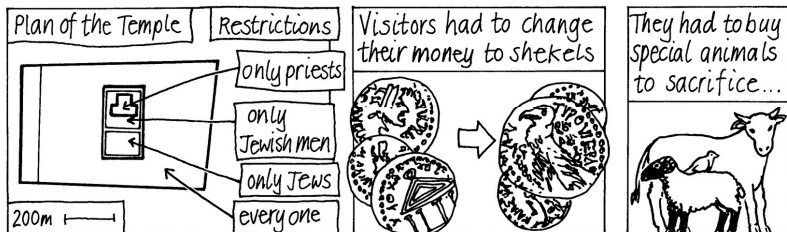
# For the Young & Young at heart

## Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

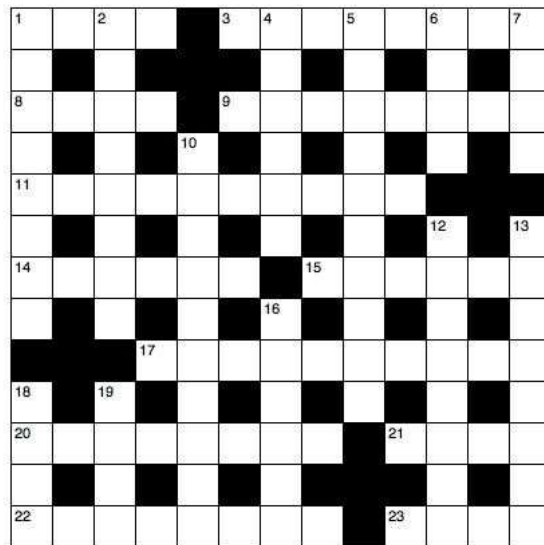
It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 21:12-16, Mk 11:15-18, Lk 19:45-48

When Jesus reached Jerusalem he went to the Temple, built as a place where everyone could worship God, but with restrictions...

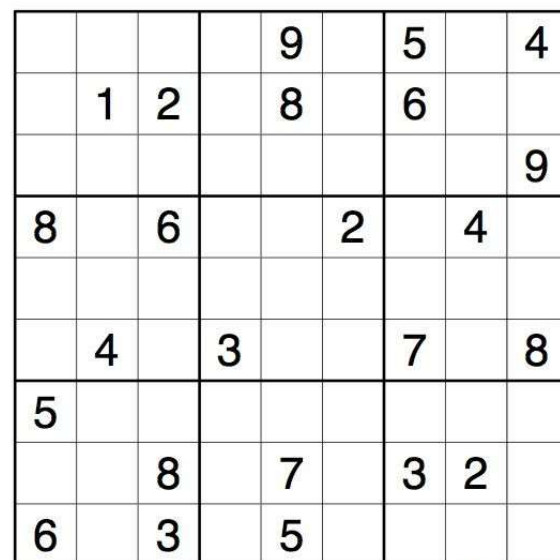


## PUZZLES

### Crossword



### Sudoku



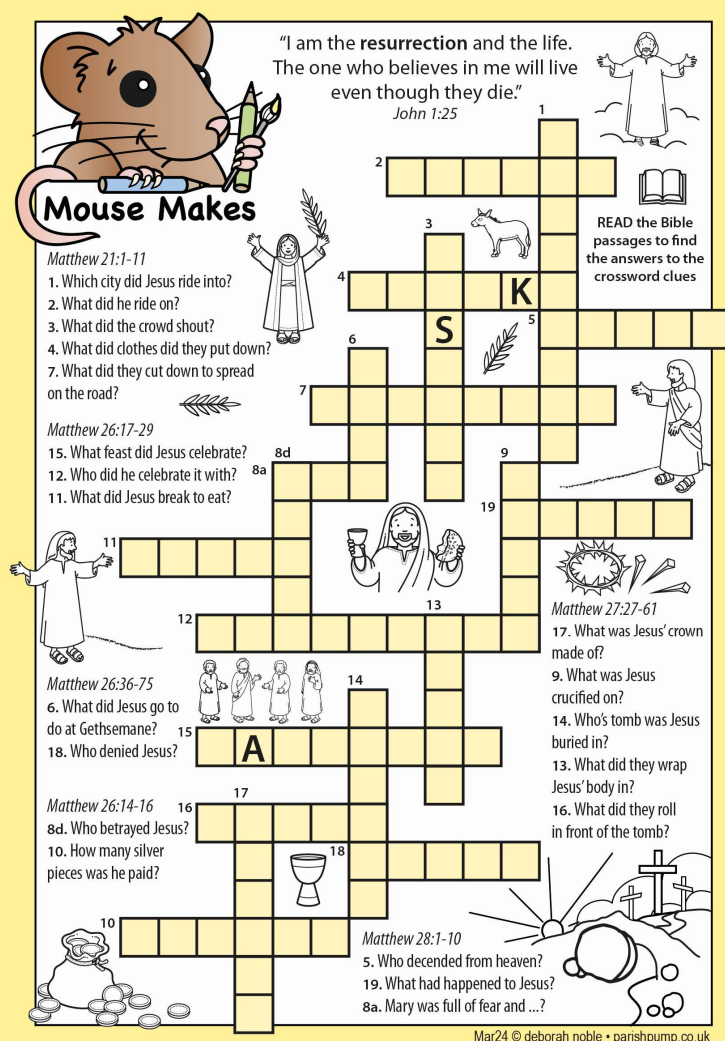
**Love & Serve one another** – On Maundy Thursday Jesus gave the final command to His disciples before His death. After the Last Supper, He rose & washed their feet. This was astonishing for a 'teacher' to do, but He had a firm purpose in mind: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples loved through service, not domination, of one another.

### Wordsearch:

Maundy	Feet	Loved	You
Service	Thursday	Astonishing	One
Purpose	Ceremony	Medieval	Last
Domination	Command	Teacher	Must
Obedience	Humility	Disciples	Jesus
Supper	Washed	Death	As
Another	Final	Latin	

I H O D T H U R S D A Y J I  
J D T E A C H E R N N D E I  
E M O A P T L A A G O V I M  
R N R M E P A S T N T L N R  
L A V E I D E M Y I H S W L  
O D E C P N R S T H E H A T  
V F S N O P A S I S R T S L  
E I O E O F U T L I I N H T  
D N P I O M E S I N Y D E Y  
O A R D C E R E M O N Y D E  
C L U E F M V S U T N N S E  
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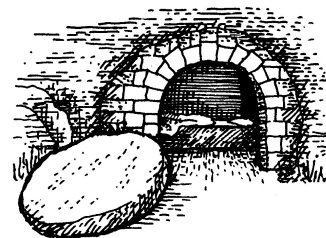
### Crossword Clues – Down:

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

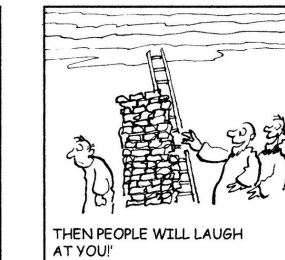
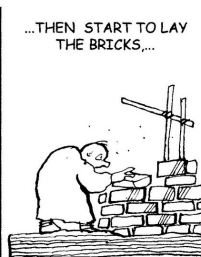
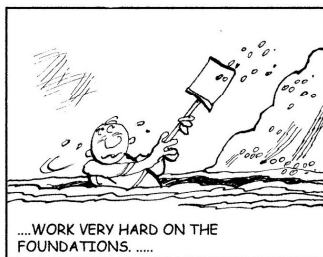
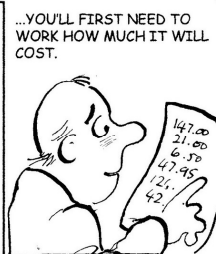
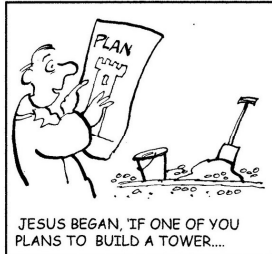
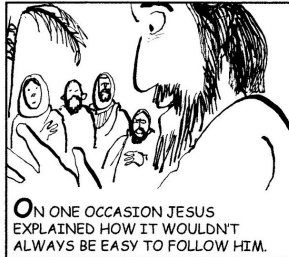
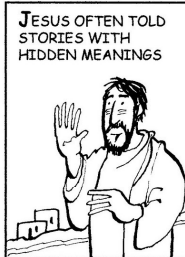


### Crossword Clues – Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12-13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)



# The tale of the Tower Builder



## Puzzle Pages Solutions

**Across:** 1, Wine. 3, The alert. 8, Ooze. 9, Passover. 11, Garden Tomb. 14, Cannot. 15, Elisha. 17, Gethsemane. 20, Own house. 21, Lisa. 22, Flogging. 23, Sty.

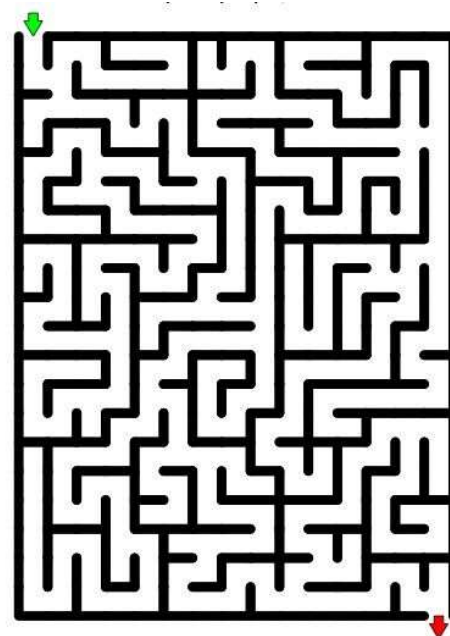
**Down:** 1, Wrong act. 2, Nazarene. 4, Health. 5, Assemblies. 6, Envy. 7, Turn. 10, Before long. 12, Iscariot. 13, Take care. 16, The Son. 18, Loaf. 19, Unto.

## Sudoku Solution

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

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



God only asks you to do your best –  
*Robert H Benson*

\*\*\*\*\*

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns –  
*Anon*

\*\*\*\*\*

Fight truth decay – study the Bible daily –  
*Anon*

\*\*\*\*\*



Pixabay

Everyone	Jerusalem	Place	Sacrifice	Priests	Den
Crowds	Thieves	Hosanna	Prayer	Stalls	Jesus
Shekels	Worship	Drove	Special	Temple	God
Visitors	Upsetting	Secretly	Problem	Killed	Animals