

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*

Colours of Autumn...

October 2026

All are welcome in this place!...

**Trinity Methodist Church,
Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2JL**

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The closing date for items for the November '26 Edition of Trinity Tidings is
Sunday 25th October 2026

Please email articles, preferably as a Word Document to:
arleystation@aol.com

Dear friends,

October is the season not only of mists and mellow fruitfulness, but of Church Councils. We will hear reports on all the things the Churches have been engaged in, and think about what we might need to do in the year ahead, setting dates or asking people to do research ready for decisions in February. Like Circuit Meeting, those who have a voting seat on Church Council are trustees. This could be thought of as legalistic, or as leaders taking responsibility for making sure we've remembered everything. We wouldn't go out without checking windows are shut and doors locked, taps and switches turned off and perhaps a meal in mind for when we get back. Trustees ask questions of those in leadership to check we've not only conformed with the law of the land, but also the way of Jesus Christ.

During September the lectionary (planned Sunday Bible readings) covered the period of history in which Moses was a leader to Israel. Growing up under the nurturing care of pharaoh's daughter, he will have learned much about governance. His years with Jethro in the wilderness gave him an understanding of the wilderness and space to grow close to God. Out of this wisdom he was able to understand the best ways to follow God as a nation; the commandments which Jesus summed up as, "Love God, love people; God loves you".

Please pray for your Church Council as it expresses this principle of concern for all in God's love because we are loved by God. We base all our decisions on loving God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength.

Pray too for Jasmin and Chris, whose marriage is planned at Trinity for the end of this month. We wish them every blessing in their life together.

With my thoughts and prayers to all who are recovering or struggling this month.

Neuro-spicy Corner

Meltdowns and Shutdowns. Do you find it difficult when several people or several things demand your attention at once? Depending how your brain is wired, some of us find it harder than others. Some can focus only on one thing at a time, others are great at multi-tasking. Some with autistic brains can be so overwhelmed by too many demands that they either melt-down or shut-down.

A meltdown is where emotion takes over, because it has become impossible to manage the traffic of thoughts; there is a traffic jam in the brain, and every thought is beeping its horn, and there seems to be no way to end the grid lock, and its like a fuse blowing, and even as its happening you regret it because its not what you want, so you're in floods of tears. This is often mistaken for a tantrum, but its just a momentary inability to cope, and passes once things can be taken one at a time.

A shutdown looks like a withdrawal, and may be misinterpreted as sullenness or rudeness. When unable to cope with too much information, interaction with the world shuts down in order that the brain can focus on whatever needs its full attention to sort out. Once the traffic of information is flowing smoothly once again, this person starts to interact quite happily again. They didn't intend to be rude, they just needed space to sort themselves out.

Either way, meltdowns and shutdowns can be distinguished from mood swings and temper outbursts in that they are generally shortlived, and not about the people or the situation, but arise from the inability of the brain to cope – just allow some space and understanding, and in all likelihood, all will be well.

Verity

PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz Potter, Betty Norman, Josephine and Ranzi Seremwe, Maureen Homer, Pauline Pinner, Mike and Margaret Bolton, Lynn Jones, Joan Davies, Nigel and Jacquie Galton and those whose names are written in our Prayer Book, on the Prayer Vine and also people we know who need the love, comfort and the knowledge of Christ's presence with them.

* * * * *

During the month of October, please remember in your prayers the people and places in the area of Kidderminster known as Greenhill and Hurcott

Greenhill and Hurcott

October

Residential Housing
St Ambrose and St George's Churches
St George's, St Ambrose and Holy Trinity
Schools and their Nurseries
The Shrubbery Nursing Home
Hurcott Pools and countryside walks
The rehousing of all tenants as the Hurcott Road flats are demolished.



Dear Friends.....

We are now in the season of Autumn, as John Keats so eloquently described it in his poem Ode to Autumn. It is a time when many fruits are ready for picking, apples and blackberries among many others. Roses seemed determined to give one more bloom before the cold weather of winter comes, and many others try to do the same, but one night's frost soon ends their endeavours. Autumn is a time when it seems as if nature is beginning to settle down to slumber until next spring. It is a time when we start to put heating on, and when I can enjoy the flames of an open fire, and just in case you are wondering, no, I don't get a bucket of coal from the engine tender!

Autumn also has many Festivals which we can enjoy, and even some in which we can take part. There is Hallowe'en, which personally I don't like at all. It all happens here at Arley so I keep well out of the way. Then comes Bonfire Night and fireworks, which seem to me to become louder every year. Then comes the solemn time of Remembrance, and what is more haunting than a lone bugler playing the Last Post? Then we start the season of Advent and the anticipation of Christmas. Arley Station has a huge marquee with a stage and raised seating so that passengers can come and watch a traditional pantomime. 'Oh Yes They Do!!' The marquee will be erected in three week's time! The children always get their presents because the elves leave them on the train before the train departs.

There is so much to do, and not enough time it seems, but there is something comforting about the darkness and quiet of Autumn, especially if you are warm, and comfortable.

Enjoy Autumn, and all it brings.

David



SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Oct 4 th	10.30am	Mr Albert Wilkinson
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Taize service
Oct 11 th	10.30am	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
	6.30am	Café Worship
Oct 18 th	10.30am	Deacon Becky Lovatt
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
Oct 25 th	10.30am	Mr Mike Dernie
	6.30pm	Deacon Becky Lovatt -- Praise Service
Nov 1 st	10.30am	Mr David Skitt
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- All Saints Service

THURSDAY SERVICES all at 12.30pm

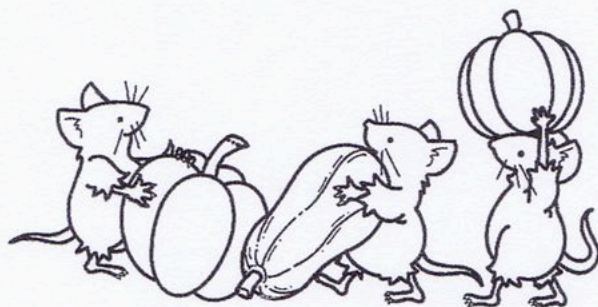
Oct 1 st	Deacon Becky Lovatt
Oct 8 th	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
Oct 15 th	Mr Mike Dernie
Oct 22 nd	Rev Nick Collison
Oct 29 th	TBA

OFFERTORIES FOR THE FIVE WEEKS TO 27th SEPTEMBER ARE AS FOLLOWS

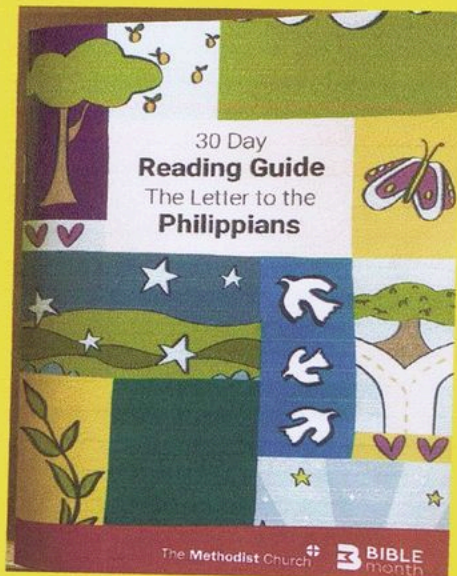
	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
30.08.26	83.00	50.00	753.80	886.80
06.09.26 & 13.09.26	226.00	159.00	1820.50	2205.50
20.09.26 & 27.09.26	301.10	175.00	1820.50	2296.60

This is a weekly average of £1077.78

For the new church year to 31st August 2027 it is estimated that offertories of £1300 per week will be required to break even.



October 2026 is Bible Month



Yes, it's that time of year again! And the chosen book is **Philippians**.

Every service in our five churches will begin the same way and your preachers will focus on one chapter each Sunday.

But this year *everyone* attending worship has been given a daily Reading Guide to Philippians (left) and we are all encouraged to read a little each day, so we are all prepared when we come to worship in October!

WHAT? The apostle Paul's short letter to the **Philippians** that overflows with joy, encouragement, and love – even as he writes from prison.

WHERE? It's the 11th book of the New Testament, coming after the four gospels, Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians and Ephesians.

HOW? Put aside a few minutes each day to read in your Bible the verse or verses set out in the daily Reading Guide - then think and pray about them in the context of your life. Use your printed Bible - or why not download an online version of your choice to your smartphone or tablet? See

WHEN? We were asked to start reading chapter 1 on 27 September and to have completed the chapter before church on Sunday 4 October. Then we start the next chapter, and so on. There'll be reminders each week in our church notices.

WHY? Reading our Bibles daily is good for our souls and our discipleship. To have everyone in our five churches reading, thinking and praying about the same verses each day will help bring us all together – and enhance our worship and the focus on Philippians this October.

WHO? All of us!
Don't be left out! If you haven't got a Reading Guide yet, please see
one of the stewards

NEW LIFE
TOGETHER

Choir



Invite you to join us to celebrate our

40th



Anniversary Presentation

*...with a selection of our favourite songs
from previous musicals and presentations.*

Saturday 17th October at 7pm

Trinity Methodist Church

Churchfields, Kidderminster DY10 2JL

Enjoy an evening of music and songs!

**FREE
ENTRY**

with
Retiring
Collection
on the door
in aid of
'Christian
Music
Ministries'

Christmas MARKET

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER
10:00AM TO 1:00PM

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
KIDDERMINSTER
DY10 2JL

GROTTO ♥ CRAFTS ♥ GIFTS ♥ SMILES
FOOD



SARAH@COBON.CO.UK

Come for the
shopping, stay
for the festive
cheer!

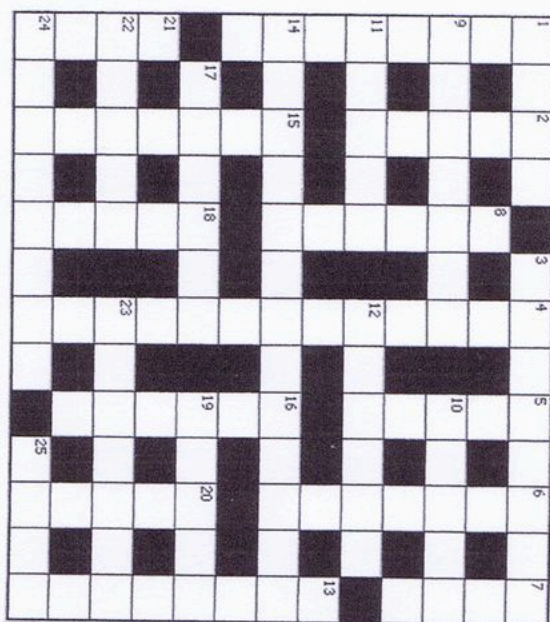
A Quiz about all sorts of things....

1. Who was the first President of the USA?
2. What is the currency of Spain?
3. Which of Shakespeare's plays takes place in Verona, Italy?
4. Where would you find The Colosseum?
5. How many Harry Potter books are there?
6. Who wrote 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'?
7. Which were the first two countries to declare war on Germany in 1939?
8. Who was Henry VIII's first wife?
9. What is Alexander Fleming particularly known for?
10. What do you call a group of Flamingos?
11. How many weeks are there in a year?
12. Who wrote the Famous Five Books?
13. Who is third in line to the English Throne?
14. Who was Prime Minister before Theresa May?
15. Which is the smallest planet?
16. Which artist cut off his own ear?
17. What is the national emblem of Ireland?
18. Which country celebrates ANZAC day on 25th April?
19. Which famous author was involved in a train crash?
20. Who wrote 'Ode to Autumn'?



The two Scarecrows
in the foyer who greeted
us as we entered Trinity
on Harvest Festival
morning.
Both made by
Viv Dickens.

Parish Pump Crossword



Sudoku Puzzle (easy)

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

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Clues Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of —, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

I am sure some of us will have had this holiday experience.....

THE GREAT BRITISH HOLIDAY

The rain beats down on the caravan roof
Like a troupe of tap-dancers in hob nailed boots.
The gale shakes the awning, which in turn shakes the 'van
Like a dog shakes a rat to the very last breath.

No sleep tonight, it's all too alarming,
Will daylight find us the right side up?
A dash to the laundry room to wash out the woollies,
We'd only banked on a cold day or two.

A laugh with the campers, we all agree
It takes grit and endurance to holiday here.
The weather man says "Brighter tomorrow",
Tomorrow, tomorrow, but which tomorrow?

Dad's getting ratty, mum's now quite hairless,
We'll put on our wellies and zip up our cagoules.
We'll face the wind, the rain and the cold!
No faint hearts now, wrap up well and be bold!

Only two days left and then we go home,
To sit by the telly, be warm by the fire.
"Have a good holiday?" the neighbours will ask,
"Oh, yes." We will lie, through our wind beaten mask.

A new minister was visiting members of his church, and he went to one house, knocked the front door, rang the bell with no answer. He waited a moment or two, then took out his visiting card and wrote on it: Revelations chapter three verse twenty.

'Behold, I stand at the door and knock'

The following Sunday someone put a card on the Offertory Plate with the words: Genesis chapter three verse twenty.

'I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked'



October Gardening Notes

It is time to tidy herbaceous borders, cut down yellowing stems and lightly fork over the surface of the soil but do not disturb roots. However, in colder spots the dead material offers some protection against cold wind and frost and can be left un-pruned or cut and placed over the roots of more tender subjects. Leave seed heads as food for birds and animals while older stems make good over-wintering habitats for many beneficial insects.

Finish spring bulb planting as soon as possible, except for tulips which can wait until November. Remove summer bedding plants as soon as possible to enable spring bedding to become established before winter sets in. Prepare flowerbeds for spring bedding by incorporating a slow release fertilizer (low in nitrogen) such as **fish blood and bone**. *Pansies*, *Panolas* and *Violas* in flower in ensure a good autumn display. *Polyanthus*, *Sweet Williams* and *Forget-me-Nots* can also be planted this month. Keep pots off the ground with pot feet to improve drainage, this will also help prevent serious frost damage to root-balls. October is also the best month for planting evergreens as well as deciduous subjects as the ground is generally moist enough to ensure that any subjects planted readily establish. Autumn and early winter planting has an advantage over spring planting in that the ground is still warm and it allows many subjects especially deciduous plants to make new extensive root systems during the winter months. October is also your last chance for lifting, dividing and replanting herbaceous plants especially those subjects that flower early next spring. It is good practice to remove weeds that may harbour pests and diseases.

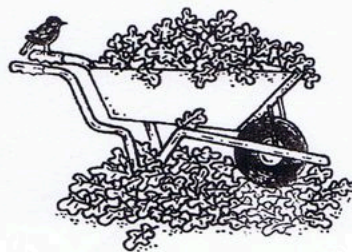
Pruning of climbing roses should begin this month (rambling roses are pruned in late summer). First remove dead, diseased or dying branches using a good pair of **secateurs**. If it's an older plant that needs thinning, cut out any some of the old branches from the base to promote new growth. Tie in any new shoots and prune any flowered side shoots back by two thirds of their length. Gather up any diseased leaves and burn. It's very important to keep the lawn free of leaves to avoid damage as well as disease affecting the grasses. Lessen the frequency of mowing any grass, brushing off any moisture first with a wide brush, besom or cane broom. Scatter worm casts by brushing the lawn. At the beginning of the month (if the grass is still growing well and the ground is moist), lawns will still benefit from a good scarifying and aerating but don't scarify too deeply. Aerate the lawn and brush in sharp sand on wet, poorly-drained soils or **Lawn Top Dressing** on light sandy soils. Feed with **Autumn Lawn Food** some three weeks later.

October is the best month for laying new turf and repairing damage, allowing the sods to settle into the soil before winter begins in earnest. Prepare a weed free turf bed, working in an organic fertiliser that contains added beneficial mycorrhizal fungi which promote strong root development. Allow the bed to settle before laying turves in the same way as brickwork, fitting them closely together.

If your lawn is being ripped up by birds or animals it's a sure sign that they are searching for leather jackets or chafer grubs. There is little you can do to remedy this problem and there are no chemicals available to treat these grubs.

Autumn is upon us....enjoy!

Bolo.



Bits 'n' Pieces

The longest personal name in the Bible is Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz in Isaiah 8 v1-4. This is a prediction, it means "Quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil". This refers to the danger from the Assyrians.

**

Acrostic – never heard of it? There are many acrostic passages in the Bible. You wouldn't recognise them because the Bible was not written in English. It's basically a poem where the lines are started in alphabetical order A _ Z. Starting the first line with A, the next line, B and so on. You won't recognise it because the Bible was not written in English. Psalms 111 – 112 are examples of this.

**

More than 20 different kinds of oak tree grew in Palestine, some reaching a height of 30 metres. The forest of Ephraim in Gilead, where Absalom was killed, was one of many dense forests of oak which grew in Palestine in biblical times. The oak's hard wood was used in building ships and for carving. Trees like oak symbolised strength and stability. No wonder Robin Hood lived in them and King Charles 1 hid in them. As for Absalom, his long hair became tangled in the branches.

**

There are 150 Psalms in the Bible. They all give praise to God but they can be talks of sadness and anger. All our human emotions are in the Psalms. They are unique in the Bible. They are words that we say to God rather than what He says to us. There were various writers, including King David. There are 5 different types of Psalm. One that talks of God and His actions, laments for disasters, laments for personal crises, Psalms that tell of special occasions in the life of a king and Psalms of thanksgiving. Psalms tell us it's ok to call out to God in times of trouble and pain. The most popular, and one everybody knows, is Psalm 23 "The Lord is my shepherd".

**

The book of Esther is unusual because it is the only book in the Bible which doesn't mention God.. It reminds us that even if we don't see God, His hand is over all of our lives. However, Esther does have one big claim to Fame – it contains the longest verse in the Bible, chapter 8 verse 9.

**

King Rehoboam had 18 wives and 60 concubines, providing him with 28 sons and 60 daughters. How did he cope with all the lucky bags at birthday parties?

**

The first 5 books of the Bible have various names. The Jews call them the Torah, which basically means Law or Learning. They are also known as The Books of Law, the Books of Moses, or as we know The Pentateuch, which comes from the Greek word Pentateuchos, meaning 'A five volume book. These are the books we should take to heart; these show where God cares about His people. These books contain the 10 Commandments, read them and listen. God loves you.

**

Moses was the first and greatest leader of Israel. Not only did he lead them out of slavery but he kept them together in the desert. Through Moses, God gave them religious laws in what we know were the Ten Commandments. They were to become God's special people. The Ten Commandments were the most important rules that God gave. There were many others not contained on those tablets. The rules were about all the things of every day life. What to eat, what to drink, how to stay healthy (Disease), and you must take holidays when you could. Forget about work and think of Hom. Once every 50 years there was to be a holiday that lasted a whole year. No no-one was to work that whole time. (Think of Cliff Richards 'Summer Holiday') This gave the whole Earth a rest. God promised to

provide enough food for these breaks, of course, that was God, who else? The Promised Land was to come

Canaan, The Promised Land, was a rich fertile country. A country full of olive trees. They were a symbol of strength, beauty, blessing and prosperity. The Children of Israel march on. God always delivers on His promises.

**

They say there were 12 tribes of Israel. Actually, there are 13. The tribes come from Jacobs 12 sons. But Joseph was replaced by his sons Ephraim and Manasses, making 13. These are sometimes known as half tribes, bringing the number back to 12.

**

The Israelites have always considered themselves to be God's chosen people. They thought themselves as people who were born to bear witness to His love and His purposes for the World. In the New Testament, Peter says Christians are God's chosen people and so it seems to be today.

Mike (Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

Mike's Smile Lines.- NEWS HEADLINES

The life of Horatio Nelson – for details look at the top of the column.

**

Iran Head seeks arms.

**

Council stamps on dog mess.

**

Panda mating fails: vets take over.

**

Man who stole a clock faces time.

**

Police shot man with a knife.

**

Spare our trees – They break wind.

**

Police campaign to run down jaywalkers

**

Catering college head cooked for The Queen.

**

Do Britains drug laws need a shot in the arm?

**

Garden party. 2 – 5 wonderful days out. Games, Music, Dancing, Prizes. No toilet facilities. Bring an umbrella.

**

Exams. Learn the principles of success and passing exams. One day course.

**

Steals clock – faces time

**

Money – that's Wat I Want

Churches have always struggled for money, most relying on the collection plates every Sunday, and those of us who rely on direct giving and bank accounts, keep our church going. Methodism is always a struggle for money. The Church of England and Catholicism are the richest groups in Britain but the poor old Congregationalists struggle. Money, Money, Money, sang Abba, don't we know. Cleaning, maintenance, decorating and gardens – all done behind the scenes. It's great that people get together in working parties. Sadly, all churches struggle with debt. Offerings and tax efficient giving are great for the general income, don't forget gas, water, telephone, heating and insurance and, of course, we have to pay our share of the Circuit and District running costs. To make our churches a place for all this is what we have to do. And, of course, the poor box, not seen but there. Help for people, not with money but a bag of groceries, or perhaps a tank of petrol.

Spain is lucky, the only country in the world that makes its people make a contribution to the church. Well, they don't have to. When they get their annual income tax form, there is a box that you can tick if you don't want to pay, obviously it's small, you don't see it, so Spanish people pay. In fact the system works, they've just finished building the most beautiful Cathedral in the world, "La Sagrada Familia" in Barcelona. Oh for a British government that made donations to our churches. Let's face it, some of our Methodist churches are some of the most beautiful examples of architectural building in the country. Look at Bewdley and Stourport – beautiful.

So we plod on. You could always charge an admission fee! Conducted visits to Westminster Abbey, £31, St. Paul's £26, York £12, Winchester £14. It goes on. We can dream. Our money comes from our devoted followers. What ever happened to the Jumble Sale?

Mike

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

A POEM

Thanks for friends who keep on loving,
Finding ways to help us grow,
Celebrating our achievements
Sharing in our pain and woe.
God is glimpsed where love is faithful;
Mirrored here in time and space.
Thanks to God for friends who love us;
Christ revealed in every face.

Other people help to shape us,
When they take their time to share
Words of wisdom, honest actions
Through our journey in God's care.
In our faithful, honest learning
We discover things unknown.
Thanks to God for Friends who teach us,
Seeking talent yet ungrown.

When we find our friendships challenged
Through mistakes and different views,
We discover deeper living
As the love of God renews.

For in Christ we see forgiveness
Know a strength still to embrace.
Thanks to God for friends who keep us;
Making real the gift of Grace.

Praise to God for this great gifting
Of relationship and friend;
Imaging divine relating;
Found in Heaven with no end.
Bless us Maker, Word and Spirit
As companions on the way.
Thanks to God for friends who help us
To fulfil our lives each day.

Anon.

Contributed by our friend *Mike*

Mike's Smile Lines

A big white horse goes into a pub. The Landlord says "You know we've got a Whiskey named after you". "What?" says the Horse – Dobbin".

**

I bought a piano stool. I've spun it in every direction and it doesn't play a note.

**

Man: "What does your father do?"

Applicant: "He was a conductor"

Man: "On the buses or music?"

Applicant: "Neither. He was struck by lightning!"

**

Cross a four-leaf clover with poison Ivy – you'll get a rash of good luck

**

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen are defrocked, shouldn't electricians be delighted, Musicians, denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed and dry cleaners depressed?

**

I said to the doctor can you give me something for my liver. He gave me a pound of onions.

**

So long as you can laugh, you're still winning.

**

If you want to get your kids to eat olives, start off with Martinis.

**

A man goes to the doctors and says he's having trouble with his hearing. "What are the symptoms?" the doctor asks. "A yellow T.V cartoon family" was the reply.

**

I went to a concert last week by the Bermuda Symphony Orchestra. The percussion was great, especially the playing of coconuts. However, the triangle kept disappearing.

**

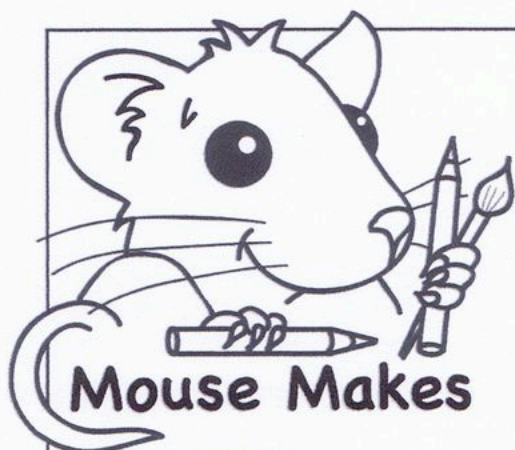
A warning to all cowboys – don't squat with your spurs on.

**

I've just had a message from Bill Bailey – He isn't coming

**

Bees have sticky hair because they use honeycombs.



The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



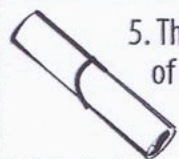
B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.

6. God's word is like?

A _____ and a _____
Psalm 119:105



8. The last book in the Bible.

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman

of God.
Hebrews 4:12



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always
ready for his return at the end of time
by telling the story of two servants

The good servant



My master could be away
a long time; I will work as
if he was here.



When the servants came
for their food, he had it
ready



He made sure everyone
got their full amount.
every day



Then his master came back



Well done!

I am putting you in
charge of everything I
have



The bad servant



My master could be away
a long time; I can do what
I want!



When the servants came
for their food, he chased
them away!



He had friends come
round, and they ate and
drank as much as they
liked.



Then his master came back



Jesus said

This is the
difference
between
those who
follow me and those
who only say they do.

Canon Paul Hardingham looks back on a national tragedy...

Aberfan – 60 years on

On 21st October 1966 the Aberfan disaster took place in South Wales. A colliery slag heap collapsed, releasing a torrent of slurry onto the village. It engulfed a number of houses and Pantglas Junior School, killing 116 children and 28 adults. It was a disaster that shocked the nation. As we reflect on it today, we are left asking the question, *'where was God when this happened?'*

At the time there was a mixture of strong emotions: grief and sadness over the loss of those who had died, and anger against the Coal Board in allowing the disaster. However, people gave their energy to support each another. A local Baptist Minister, Revd Kenneth Hayes, who lost his eldest son at the school, responded in this way: *'For 36 hours he was working non-stop either at the school, or going around comforting bereaved and stricken families and kept open house for many who came seeking news and comfort.'*

How should we respond to such an incident? *'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?'* (Romans 8:35). Paul reminds us that even in our darkest times of loss, God is with us to bring comfort. *'Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.'* (34). Paul also tells us that Jesus understands our suffering and is praying for us. *'If God is for us, who can be against us?'* (31). We can let go of bitterness and blame, because God is a God of justice.

King Charles III (then Prince of Wales) on the 50th anniversary summed up the community's response: *'darkest sorrow, but also the most shining selflessness.'*

Parish Pump 2026

23rd Psalm for the Workplace

The Lord is my real boss and I shall not want.

He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.

He gently reminds me to pray before I speak and to do all things without murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that He is my Source and not my job.

He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions that I might honour Him in everything I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of emails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors, and an aging body that doesn't cooperate every morning,

I will not stop — for He is with me!

His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.

He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.

He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go.

His faithfulness and love are better than any bonus cheque.

His retirement plan beats every 401K there is.

When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a whole lot longer and for that, I bless His Name.

Parish Pump 2026

Which milk do you buy?

Once upon a time there was just milk. Now our supermarket shelves are packed with dairy (whole, semi-skimmed, fat-free) and also plant-based alternatives: oat, almond, soya, coconut, and pea.

Which is the best? The amount of protein, sugars, fat and vitamins in each vary a great deal. No wonder that, according to Mintel's UK recent market report, nearly half of us struggle to decide. Here are some facts to consider:

According to nutritionists, the best all-rounder is semi-skimmed cow's milk. This is because dairy milk contains all nine essential amino acids and has the most protein.

Or, if you are dairy-free, try fortified soya milk or pea drinks for reasonable levels of protein.

As for the others, they vary in nutrients, but:

Oat milk is popular but contains very little protein.

Almond milk is popular and low in calories, but again, has very little protein.

Coconut milk has hardly any protein at all.

Rice milk has almost zero protein.

Parish Pump 2026

Why it is easy to break the law in your own garden?

You would be forgiven for thinking that tidying up your own garden is about the most harmless thing you can do. But – beware – there are a few things which may bite back!

Pruning trees is a necessary job. But any tree with a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) on it can be downright scary: legally, you need permission from your local council to carry out *any* work on one, or you may face fines up to £20,000.

Then there is the tree that grows in your neighbour's garden, but which has branches jutting into your garden. What do you do with it? What *can* you do it? The law says you are not allowed to cross into their garden to take any action. But if their overhanging branches are causing an issue in your garden, you are allowed to cut them back to the point at which they cross your boundary line. But – wait for it – the branches that you have cut off *are not yours* – they must be given to the neighbour, if they want them. Otherwise, it is your responsibility to dispose of them.

As for any fallen fruit from the overhanging branches from the tree in your neighbour's garden? The law says that it is still *their* fruit, and you must offer to bring it around to them if they want it. But bizarrely, you cannot simply throw it over the fence, or they could 'do' *you* for littering or even fly-tipping! And without their permission, you must not eat the fruit of their tree, because it is a criminal offence under the Theft Act 1968, Sections 1-6.

As for your hedge? Be careful of it between March and August, as the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) warns that "It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or to intentionally kill, injure or take chicks or adults, or intentionally take or destroy any eggs."

After all that, you may decide it is safest to sit in the shade with a drink and a good book...

Parish Pump 2026

And churches of all the major denominations are in full and active support. The C of E often sets up localised search engines on its website, specifically to help families track down local 'light and bright parties' in their dioceses.

Meanwhile, Methodist, Baptist, and Elim Pentecostal churches also offer Light Parties, to which all are welcome.

Just for the record, a Light Party is a family-friendly Christian event held on 31st October. Instead of featuring ghosts, ghouls and darkness, it celebrates the themes of light and hope in Jesus Christ. Children dress up in bright, colourful outfits, enjoy games such as glow-in-the-dark, eat party snacks and enjoy themselves without any element of fear or oppression. The organisers usually close with a simple, positive message of faith and light.

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Parish Pump Smile Lines

Why I didn't realise this sooner? It's the shampoo I use in the shower that is my problem. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning: 'FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY.' No wonder I have been gaining weight.

**

As my five-year-old son and I were heading to McDonald's one day, we passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so I pointed and said to my son, "We should pray."

From the back seat I heard his earnest voice: "Dear God, please don't let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's."

**

As part of his talk at a banquet, our minister told some jokes and a few funny stories. Since he planned to use the same anecdotes at a meeting the next day, he asked reporters covering the event not to include them in their articles. Reading the paper the following morning, he noticed that one well-meaning cub reporter had ended his story on the banquet with the observation: "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published."

**

It was my wedding day, and no one was happier than my mother. But as she approached the church doors, an usher asked, "Which side are you on?"

"Oh, no," she said, dismayed. "Are they fighting already?"

**

What do they call pastors in Germany?

German Shepherds.



All in the month of OCTOBER

It was:

300 years ago, on 28th October 1726 that Jonathan Swift's novel *Gulliver's Travels* was published. 125 years ago, on 19th October 1901 that Edward Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1* and *March No. 2* were performed for the first time, in Liverpool. 100 years ago, on 14th October 1926 that the children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A A Milne, was published.

90 years ago, from 5th to 31st October that The Jarrow March took place. 200 men set off from Jarrow in north-east England to Westminster, to draw attention to the severe unemployment and poverty in their area following the closure of a shipyard.

80 years ago, on 20th October 1946 that the puppet character Muffin the Mule made his first TV appearance on the BBC series *For the Children*.

75 years ago, on 18th October 1951 that Snowdonia National Park was established in Wales. It was Britain's third National Park.

Also 75 years ago, on 31st October 1951 that zebra crossings were introduced in Britain. The first one was in Slough, Berkshire.

70 years ago, on 17th October 1956 that Britain's first nuclear power station, Calder Hall in Cumbria, was officially opened. It closed in March 2003, nearly 47 years later.

65 years ago, on 6th October 1961 that US President John F Kennedy advised Americans to build bomb shelters to protect themselves from nuclear fallout, in the event of an attack by the Soviet Union.

60 years ago, on 21st October 1966 that the Aberfan disaster took place in South Wales. A colliery spoil tip (slag heap) collapsed and fell onto the village. Worst hit was Pantglas Junior School. In all, 116 children and 28 adults were killed.

50 years ago, on 4th October 1976 that the InterCity 125 High Speed Train service began operating in the UK.

Also 50 years ago, on 25th October 1976 that the National Theatre in London officially opened.

40 years ago, on 9th October 1986 that Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *The Phantom of the Opera* premiered in London.

Also 40 years ago, on 29th October 1986 that the M25 orbital motorway around Greater London was opened.

15 years ago, on 31st October 2011 that the world's population reached seven billion.

Parish Pump 2026

Light Parties – a happier alternative to Halloween

While many of us may buy Halloween-themed confectionary, pumpkins, decorations and even costumes this month, thousands of us have no intention of celebrating Halloween.

Instead, we will be attending Light Parties hosted by our local churches, and our children will enjoy a positive and upbeat alternative to traditional Halloween celebrations.

Scripture Union, the Christian charity that first pioneered Light Parties, reports that around 8,000 churches and youth organisations now request their Light Party Pack each year.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. George Washington
2. Euro
3. Romeo and Juliet
4. Rome
5. Seven books
6. Roald Dahl
7. United Kingdom and France
8. Catherine of Aragon
9. Penicillin
10. A flamboyance
11. Fifty-two
12. Enid Blyton
13. Prince George
14. David Cameron
15. Mercury. (Pluto has been down-graded and is not now a planet)
16. Vincent Van Gogh
17. Shamrock
18. Australia
19. Charles Dickens

Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword answers

ACROSS

1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward;
19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton

DOWN

1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to;
16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA



TRINITY LUNCHEON CLUB

Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster

Every Wednesday at 12.15

Would you like a mid-week meal cooked for you with pleasant friendly company round the table?

Then why not come to our **Luncheon Club** – you don't have to be a church member or on your own, couples are welcome.

Enjoy a delicious main course and pudding with tea or coffee.

Only £3.50

Our main courses include:

Meat Loaf Salmon Flan Chicken Casserole

Corned Beef Flan Sausages

Ham and Pineapple Cheese and Bacon Flan

and our puddings (naughty but very nice):

Cheesecake Bakewell Tart Sponge Pudding

Fruit Crumble Sticky Toffee

Passion Pudding Bread & Butter Pudding

For more information or to book a place please contact
Mrs. Jill Green via 07580009755 (between 9am and 5pm)

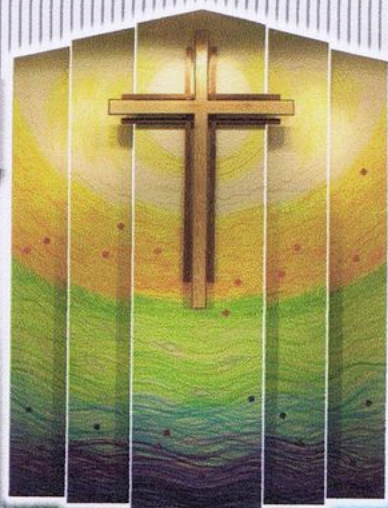


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♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦



Sunday Services

- Morning Worship at 10.30am
- Evening Worship at 6.30pm

Start the week...

Monday Morning Prayer Meeting

A short quiet time of contemplation and prayer.

Every Monday 9.30am – 10.am

Mid-Week Lunchtime Service at Trinity

Every Thursday 12.30pm – 1pm

Trinity Toddlers
Every Tuesday
10am – 11.30am

Contact:

Mrs Stella Batson - 01562 863503

Rev'd. Verity Phillips - 01562 823300

Trinity
Luncheon Club
Every Wednesday
at 12.15pm

Co-ordinator:
Mrs. Jill Green

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2 JL

Telephone: 07580 009755 (Mon-Fri 9am -5pm)

www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk

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