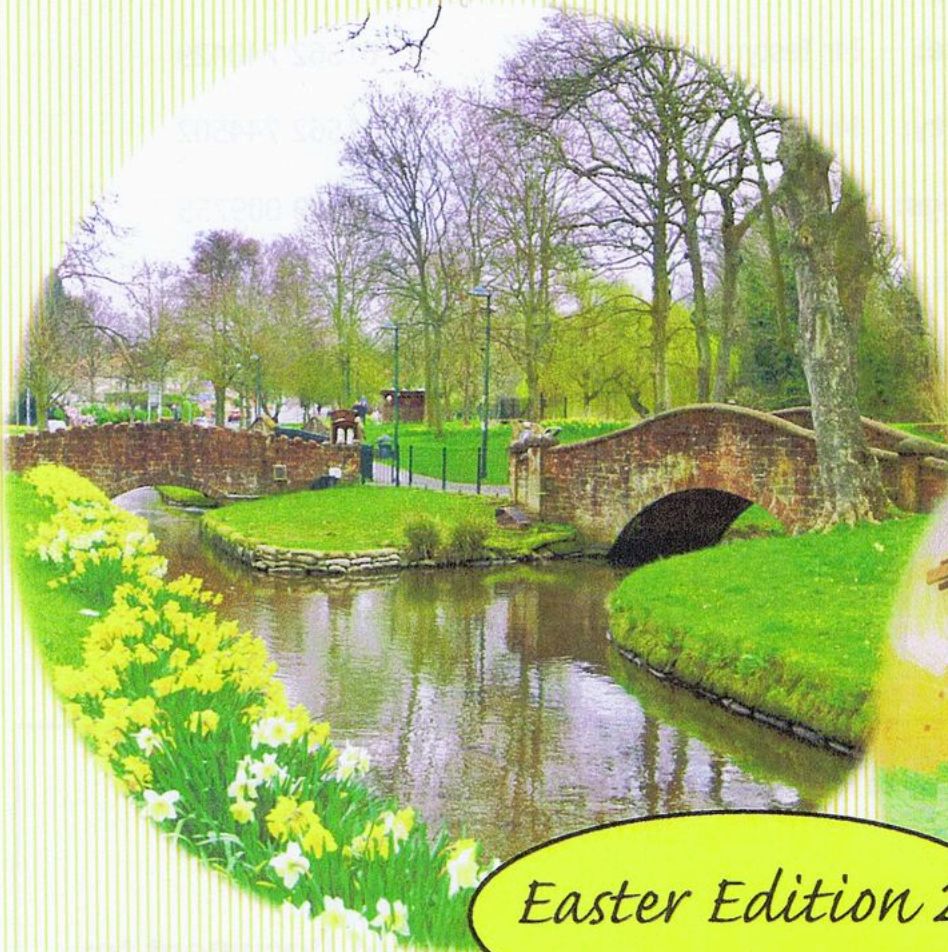


♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

# Trinity *Tidings*

April 2026



*Easter Edition 2*

*All are welcome in this place!*

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

**Church Website: [www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk](http://www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk)**

**Circuit Website: [kandsmethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://kandsmethodistcircuit.org.uk)**

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**Senior Stewards:** Mr John Bacon 01562 744502

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**Trinity Tidings Editorial Team:**

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**The closing date for items for the May '26 Edition of Trinity Tidings is  
Sunday 26th April 2026**

**Please email articles, preferably as a Word Document to:  
[arleystation@aol.com](mailto:arleystation@aol.com)**

Dear friends,

I write this on Mothering Sunday, shortly before I travel back to Devon for the third time. There will need to be other occasions, but they can be better spaced rather than emergency arrangements. The first thing I want to do is thank you for your kind good wishes, cards, acceptance, cover, and hugs. What I'm about to write may seem unusually positive, but stay with it.

Everyone grieves in their own way, with good days and bad days. I understand that it is a sign of my autism that I'm not always in touch with my emotions; sometimes these are experienced in my body before I know they're there, sometimes it takes time for me to work out how I feel. I like to think that this is what enables me to notice how other people feel more easily; I can read the signs. It also means that things hit me late, and sometimes in odd ways - I may misinterpret what's going on later in the year. Bear with me if that happens, and remember that it's more likely to be me who's got things wrong than anyone else!

My mother was 92 when she had a haemorrhage to the brain. Her death was instant, and I like to think of her as translated to glory and frolicking in a meadow of long grass and flowers with Jaime, my niece who died last summer, in the presence of Christ. God loved her, and welcomes her now for a reason which will become clear. She always said that when she dies, she wanted us to respond with joy for a soul set free. Her life was not as easy as it might have been, though she came into her own more after her second divorce. As with every mother, there were always children and grandchildren to worry about (and great grandchildren!). I spoke with her on the Sunday before the day she died, by video-link, and we laughed together, and I sent her photos of some bulbs I'd planted and told her about the baptism we'd enjoyed that morning. On the Tuesday, she 'led' lunches (as far as she could; Church didn't like her in the kitchen at her age!)

It is a great privilege that we are able to hold her services early in Holy Week. We will have a family only funeral followed by a colourful and joyous thanksgiving at the Church, and then I'll come home to Maundy Thursday and Easter weekend. Holy Week puts life and death into perspective. People do truly horrendous things to one another - from dropping bombs, to taking advantage, or shutting people out, and all points in between. Holy Week reminds us that God knows what that is like. That Jesus died cruelly, feeling momentarily abandoned by God. But that's not the end of the story. God raised Jesus from death to life. Jesus *is* resurrection, and we who live in him share in that resurrection, so that death is not something to fear in any way. It is victory, because it is the start of our life in God's Kingdom where all is as it should be.

I don't know whether Mum will still have her mended knees, painful hips, and poor sight in this kingdom. I do know she will have a new body, and she will be the person she was on 1st March, full of loving kindness, determination; and probably her undiagnosed autistic routines and oddities.

I know also that I have two families. I belong to a biological family with three siblings. I also belong to a spiritual family. When Jesus was told his family were waiting for him, and he pointed to those listening to him and said "here is my family", he was not abandoning his mother (whom he made a point of requesting to John on the Cross so that she would be cared for), he was embracing the family of God's people.

I too, have both a biological family and a spiritual family. As I drive up and down the M5, I am driving between the two families, and knitting them together in my psyche. You are my spiritual family in a way that my siblings are not, just as they are my biological family in a way that you can't be. I love both. I receive the love of both. I share that duality with my mother, and I understand her determination to rejoice and not get too stuck on physical signs of her identity. She is with God. What she wanted was for us to love in her name. I mean to continue to love with and for Christ, remembering her pride and joy in that. In that love, I also hold Pauline's family in prayer; Lynne and Clare.

Easter is my favourite time of year. It's the time when the patterns of this world are confronted with the reality of God; and it is God in Christ who overcomes; again, and again, and again. Alleluia!

Verity

# PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz Potter, Betty Norman, Josephine and Ranzi Seremwe, Maureen Homer, those whose names are written in our Prayer Book, on the Prayer Vine and people we know who need the love, comfort and the knowledge of Christ's presence with them.

We remember Lynne and Phil Harris and their family on the passing of Lynne's mother Pauline Wilkinson. We send our love and prayers

During the month of April, please remember in prayer,  
the people and places within the area of Kidderminster  
known as Offmore and Comberton.

## Offmore and Comberton

April

St Chad's, Offmore and Milton Hall Baptist Churches.

Offmore and Comberton Primary Schools and Nurseries - King Charles 1 School.

Offmore Farm Rest Home, Nightingales and Holmwood Nursing Homes

Sandlewood Assisted Living

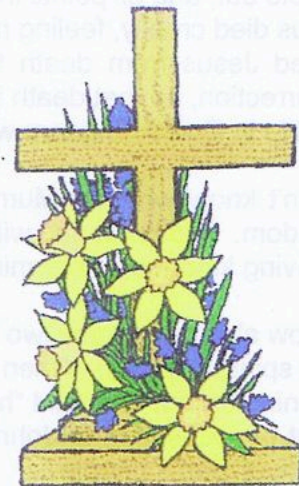
Brookside Children's Centre

Residential Housing

Retail Units and Trading

Women's Refuge

Kidderminster Cricket Club



From the Editor...

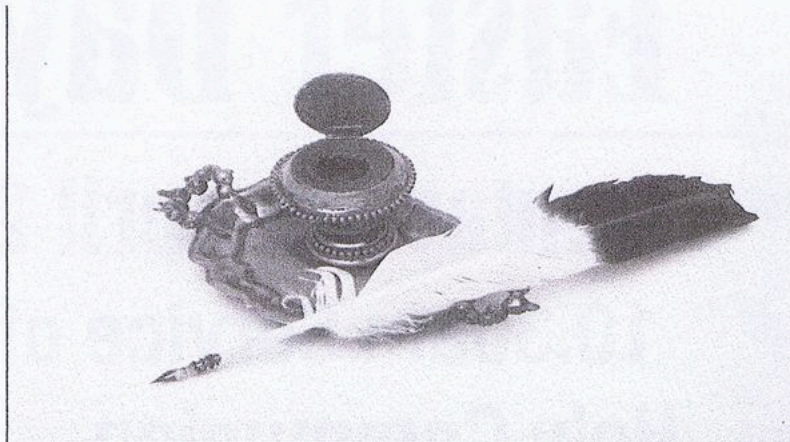
Dear Friends,

I discovered something this week which I had forgotten. Margaret and I offered to edit Trinity Tidings in March 2004, just for six months as a trial. It was Margaret's idea, not mine! We didn't have a computer then, but a very basic word processor. A lot of the articles were typed or handwritten and it usually took two to three days to complete it. We had a box full of black and white line drawn illustrations and Margaret spent ages looking for appropriate ones to stick on the pages. My son came to stay with us for a while and bought his laptop and printer with him and then we were able to receive Word Documents. When he left we bought our first laptop and printer, and what a difference that made! Articles could be sent to us ready to print, and we could dispense with black and white line drawings and use Clipart. The church copier was a basic one, so we took all the pages to a copier company who printed 250 copies. Now I print 110 copies on our wonderful copier at church, and it also goes online. I am very grateful to Joan Davies who receives all the Parish Pump material, and John Harris who produces such lovely covers and posters. I must thank Mike Knott who you might not know, he is a member of Stourport Wesley and for a few years now has been writing articles for Tidings.

I enjoy editing the magazine, it now only takes a day to do, and it is printed at church. I hope you enjoy the articles.

Something I heard on the radio the other day was that Britain is no longer in drought. The last drought restrictions were lifted a few days ago. I didn't know they were still in force!

I hope you all have a very happy and joyful Easter. David



It has been decided that from now on, because of the high price of gas for heating, all services will be restricted to thirty minutes total length, sermons to be no longer than ten minutes and there will only be two hymns.

On very cold days, overcoats, woolly hats and gloves will be acceptable

This will start on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**OFFERTORIES FOR THE FOUR WEEKS TO 22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY ARE AS FOLLOWS**

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
01.03.26 & 08.03.26	485.00	238.30	1316.40	2039.70
15.03.26 & 22.03.26	419.00	269.00	1316.40	2004.40

This is a weekly average of £1011.02

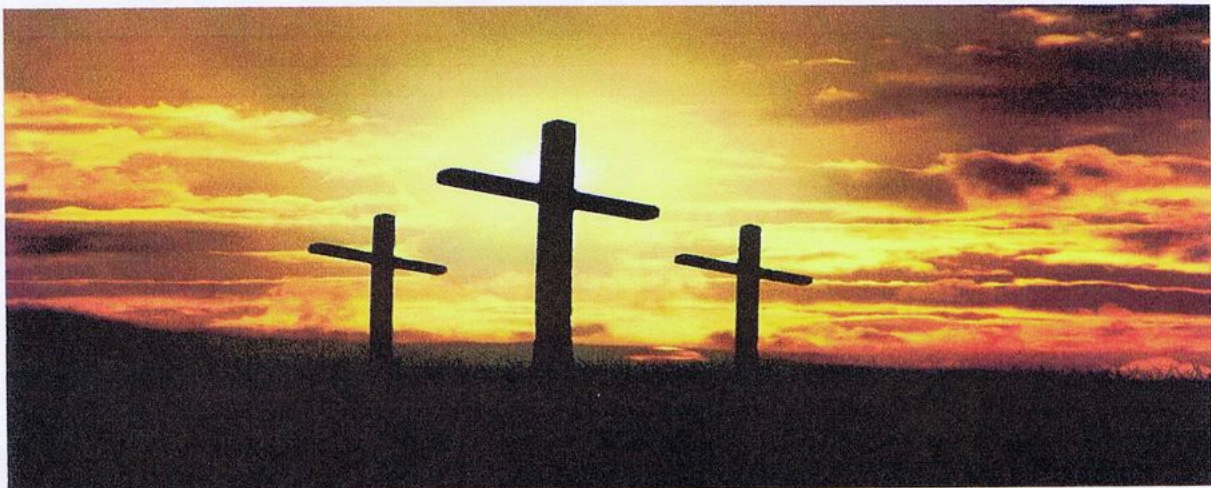
For the current church year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026 it is estimated that offertories of £1100 per week will be required to break even.

**SERVICES IN APRIL**

April 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
		<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mr Albert Wilkinson
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Café Worship
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mr Ray Simpson
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Deacon Becky Lovatt
	6.30pm	Mr Mike Dernie
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Healing Service

**THURSDAY SERVICES at 12.30pm**

April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev Suzanne Newton -- Holy Communion
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Deacon Becky Lovatt
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs Sue Green
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Novette Headley



# ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

## AGENDA TO FOLLOW

Nomination forms for Church Stewards/Council to be found on the church notice board.

**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

After morning Service

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Returns/Apologies to Sandra Baker  
Church Council Secretary  
sandragbaker@aol.com

One of my 'heroes' is the first World War Chaplain, Rev Geoffery Studdert Kennedy MC, popularly known by his nickname 'Woodbine Willy', because he always carried a rucsac in which were Woodbine cigarettes and New Testaments which he gave out to the soldiers. His memorial plaque in Worcester Cathedral has these words:

A POET, A PROPHET, A PASSIONATE SEEKER AFTER TRUTH, AN ARDENT  
ADVOCATE FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, CHAPLAIN TO H.M. KING GEORGE V  
FORCES.

His collected poems are still available, the title is 'The Unutterable Beauty'.  
This is one of his well known poems, which deserves to be read in these uncertain  
times.

### INDIFFERENCE

When Jesus came to Golgotha they hanged him on a tree,  
They drove great nails through hands and feet, and made a Calvary.  
They crowned him with a crown of thorns, red were his wounds and deep,  
For those were crude and cruel days, the human flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham they simply passed him by,  
They never hurt a hair of him, they only let him die;  
For men had grown more tender and they would not give him pain,  
They only passed down the street, and left him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, 'Forgive them, for they know not what they do.'  
And still it rained the winter rain that drenched him through and through;  
The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to see,  
And Jesus crouched against a wall, and cried for Calvary.



## STAN'S QUIZ

Can you fill in the letters missing from these words?

**EXAMPLE: S... and B..... Answer: Skin and Blister**

1. A-- F-- O-- and O-- F-- All
2. A-- T----- B----- and B.....
3. A--T-- D--- and H-----
4. A----- and P----
5. A---- and U-----
6. B---- and F-----
7. B---- and --
8. B--- and W---
9. B--- and P-----
10. B--- and G-----
11. B--- and P-----
12. C---- and W-----
13. C----- and M-----
14. C----- and E-----
15. C---and P----
16. F---- and F-----
17. F--- and C-----
18. F----- and F-----
19. G-- U- and G-
20. H---- and C---

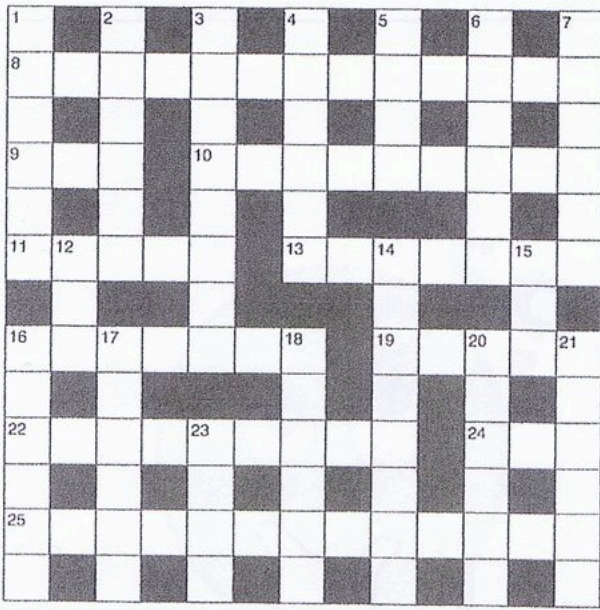


### Answers to Stan's Quiz:

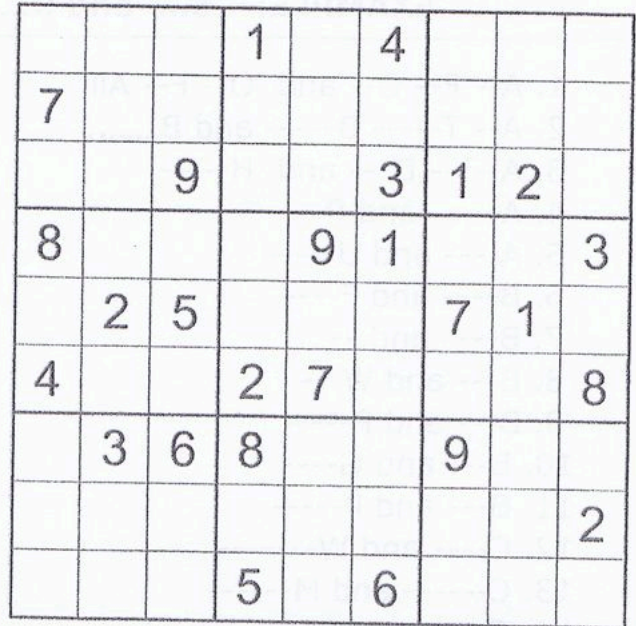
1. All for one and one for all
2. All things bright and beautiful
3. Any Tom Dick and Harry
4. Apples and Pears
5. Aunts and Uncles
6. Back and Forth
7. Bacon and Egg
8. Beer and Wine
9. Bits and Pieces
10. Boys and Girls
11. Beef and Pickle
12. Cable and Wireless
13. Cockles and Mussels
14. Custom and Excise
15. Cup and Plate
16. First and Foremost
17. Fish and Chips
18. Friends and Family
19. Get Up and Go
20. Horse and Cart



## Parish Pump Crossword



## Sudoku puzzle (medium)



© 2013 KrazyDad.com

### ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the —' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)  
 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)  
 10 Comes between Galatians and Philipians (9)  
 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)  
 13 Muslim holy month (7)  
 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)  
 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)  
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)  
 24 'Go to the —, you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)  
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

### DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)  
 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)  
 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)  
 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)  
 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)  
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)  
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)  
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)  
 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)  
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)  
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)  
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)  
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)  
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)  
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)  
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

# Our Story, Our Song:

## Growing your Calling in Worship

**With the President of the Methodist Conference**

Do you feel called to lead worship or see it flourish in your church?

Join us for a day designed to encourage, equip and inspire everyone involved in worship across our churches.

**Saturday 9 May | 9:30–15:30**

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

Save the date! More information coming soon...

**9 5 26**

Mark your  
calendar!



Trinity Methodist Church

*A Day out to the*

# National Memorial Arboretum

on **Monday**  
**18th May '26**

Depart from Trinity 9am

Tickets

**£20**

each

available from David Skitt or any  
member of the Social Committee.

with Phillips International Travel

*Enjoy a day out this spring in tranquil surroundings and time to reflect!*

## NOT ANOTHER WAR

The world is faced with war. So what's new? From the early days of the Bible, wars were being fought. Poor old Israel, who have had to spend a lifetime of being hated. No more David and Goliath, this is a war. A war of hatred for the Jews. Did one man, who hung on a cross for belief, ever believed it would? Jesus did. Greater love has no man that he lays down his life, to no avail it seems. Wars will go on, this is where we need miracles but from where will they come? There is one thing about the Bible. The Old Testament was God is war; the New, Jesus is peace.

The Old Testament is full of people who always seem to be fighting one another. This all seems to happen with God's blessing. War is wrong and most forms of conflict are wrong. OK, we live in a world that is sinful so what do we do when the only way is to use force? Listen to Jesus. We look at Luke 3 when Jesus tells a group of soldiers, don't stop being soldiers but don't abuse the powers you have been given.

Look at Matthew 26 v.52 'Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword'. Violent force should not be used to settle arguments, let's face it, doing so leads to more arguments, more violence. An eye for an eye is not a good reason for war. Of course, war is very unfortunate, we live in a wicked world. However, the future looks good, look at Isaiah 2v4 "He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore". We look to Augustine, a man in the 4<sup>th</sup> century who wrote whether wars were justifiable, "The good achieved because of war must outweigh the evil which led to it".

I remember a song from the late John Denver (Annie's Song, Country Roads), it was called 'The day they held a war and no one came'. We live in hope.

## 7 Little Girls sitting in the back seat

One of the great things about writing in Trinity Tidings is that you don't need a headline. To say that our congregations will read anything is pretty disparaging. They read everything, although a headline can be very good at attracting attention. Mine's not as good as the Sun newspapers "Freddie Starr ate my Hamster". There again, if there had been newspapers 2000 years ago "Jesus Christ is risen today" would have been the greatest headline ever. I've used 'The Avons' 1950's song to grab your eyes, not to grab your attention, but to let people know I knew music before 'The Beatles'.

Back to the headline, and my question why, in every church in the country, do more people sit in the back seats than at the front? Ok, some people have their favourite seats, in the same ones week after week, and back seats can be a normal thing. There are certain instances where back seats are normal. Back seats in the cinema for courting couples (this is the 50's!), back seats in a car for children, back seats in Parliament when the Prime Minister speaks, but why take a back seat in church? At the front you can see better, you can hear better, and it's usually warmer, but you will be last out. I feel for our Preachers here. Coming into a church and finding nobody in the front seats must be terribly disheartening, but of course the service goes on, preaching to the back seats and up to the gallery.

Of course, in the early days churches had no pews at all. The church was the meeting place for the whole village, it would also be used for many social events. A screen would divide the altar from the main body of the church, being removed for a service. There was no seating, everybody stood except for a bench against the wall for the infirm. It was not until the late 1600's that pews were introduced, along with a high pulpit.

The Squire and High families would have their private pews at the front, while further back there would be high box pews for the gentry. At the back would be a few benches for the poor. These were

free, while the gentry paid for their pews at the front. Then of course, came along John Wesley and his Methodists. They built chapels and the seats were free; you could sit wherever you liked. Then came the Victorian era when hundreds of churches were built or restored, we even got heating. 7 little girls didn't have to cling together in the back seat to keep warm! It was the end of the box pews and so replaced with what we see today.

Of course, the rich still sat at the front, the poor still at the back, such was the segregation in society, but at least the rich paid the offerings. Even the services gave signs of class, rich in the morning services, and the poor at evensong.

So why do people still aim for the back seats? Is it still in the mind that this is where the free seats are? Will the church have to provide opera glasses? All preachers accept it, but do they feel sad they must have done something wrong? Does there need to be a distance between people and sanctuary? Who knows, but if it fills the church, sit anywhere, you're welcome.

*Mike* (Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

### Mike's Smile Lines

Let's face it, if God had wanted us to go metric there would have been 10 Disciples.

\*\*

Sally: What does bicentenary mean?

Sally's Mum: It means that something is 200 years old. When we use a word that starts with bi it's connected to the word two. Can you think of other words starting with bi?

Sally: Bi one, get one free?

\*\*

I was actually complimented on my driving last week. I was proud it said, and they put a note on my windscreen – Parking fine.

\*\*

Two blokes on a picket line. "What are we striking for?" "Shorter hours", said his mate." "Great, I always thought 60 minutes were too many".

\*\*

Delivery firm FED.EX is to amalgamate with U.P.S. They will be known in the future as FED.Up

\*\*

Everybody knows what happened to Lady Godiva's horse when she climbed on his back naked. It made him shy!

\*\*Putting an onion into a stew is like a church bell. Peel after peel.

\*\*

We all know what Dick Turpin said after his epic ride to York – Whoa!

\*\*

Did you ever think about the letter G? It is so like the sun – simply because it comes in the centre of light.

\*\*

Jane: Can you stand on your head?

Jody: No – I can't get my feet high enough.

\*\*

Teacher: I asked all you children to put your hands up if you wanted to go to Heaven. How come you were the only one who never put her hand up, Barbara?

Barbara: Well Miss, Mom said I had to go straight home after school.

\*\*

Due to a strike at the meteorological office, there will be no weather tomorrow.

## GARDENING NOTES FOR APRIL

April is often famed her showers and this weather lore is based on fact, we may experience short, sharp downpours. Hail, rain, snow and thunder are quite common. Fortunately April is characterised by a pleasant mixture of fair, to fine conditions. Good sunny spells, frequent cool showers and chilly nights with the tantalizing hint of warmer weather later on.

One thing that will be evident this month will be the greening of the lawn as the grass has its first flush of spring. Mowings will become more frequent, with the blades set high to begin with. Aerating and scarifying established lawns will improve neglected areas and will allow water, light and air to penetrate down through the soil, and will remove dead and decaying material from the upper surface. Repair damaged edges.

If the weather is favourable, and by that I mean not frosty, prune back forsythia to promote new growth. Cut back stems of buddleia to a stronger pair of buds and don't be shy about it, it will respond well to a hard prune. If the weather in March precluded the pruning of roses then don't delay, do it now and feed with a proprietary food and hoe into the surface.

April is the ideal time to divide and split established clumps of herbaceous perennials. After gently lifting the established clump the splitting of herbaceous perennials is a simple task. Simply pull apart with your fingers into individual plants, or if the clump is a little more congested, then the best method is to insert two forks back-to-back and rock the forks back and forth until the clump is severed apart, then split as above.

Once bulbs have flowered remove flowers before they expend energy in producing unwanted seed. If the weather happens to be exceptionally dry then give the bulbs a good watering as this will help the bulb to store up energy for the next year, this is especially important for daffodils. A late mulching of beds and borders helps to suppress weeds and conserve moisture. Good garden compost or spent mushroom compost is ideal for this purpose, although remember that the latter should not be under any circumstances be applied around lime-hating subjects such as camellias or rhododendrons, as spent mushroom compost is very alkaline in nature. Apply mulches after rain to maximise their effect.

Pond plants will begin to grow this month and the pool will often have its first algal bloom. Don't worry - if the pool is balanced the green will disappear next month as the oxygenators put on growth. Feed fish sparingly at this stage, especially if the weather is cool.

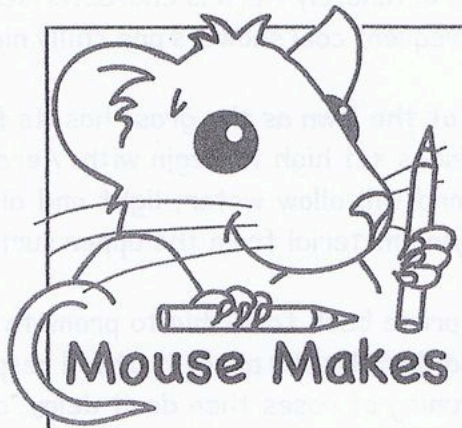
*Anemone Pavonina* is truly spectacular for spring colour. A native of grassy hillsides and olive groves along the shores of the Mediterranean, this tuberous perennial is equally happy here in the Midlands. For best results plant in a well-drained, sunny position and they will, over time, reward you with a spectacular display of early spring colour. Usually reaching a height of around 18" they appear in a variety of shades from purple, pink through to scarlet and white. Like most things originating from the Med. They go to sleep when it gets hot, becoming dormant throughout the summer, to reappear in the autumn with fresh growth. They are simply charming.

Writing these notes in March it's hard to imagine the warmth that awaits us within the next few weeks. I am sure that by the time you read these jottings spring will be well and truly with us. The sun will be out, the birds will be singing and nesting, the garden will be bursting into colour and winter will be a distant memory.

Whatever the weather, enjoy your garden: it's the only one you've got!

Bob





GOODNEWS  
 HOSANNA  
 DEATHQB  
 VNCOEUI  
 UAHNAARO  
 MIREVSU  
 ALIVETDR  
 RISENEOK  
 YOTHORNS  
 PALMSQKA  
 RPILATEN  
 CRUCIFYG  
 RHQUAKE  
 OCJESUSL  
 STOMBVDY  
 SRYEMPTY

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS  
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS  
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY  
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY  
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY

EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE

I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11

I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26

I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32

We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41

I laid his body in my tomb

Read Mark 15:42-47

I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66

We saw the empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10

and spoke to the angel

Jesus is alive! He ate a meal with me!

Read Luke 24:13-35

# The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

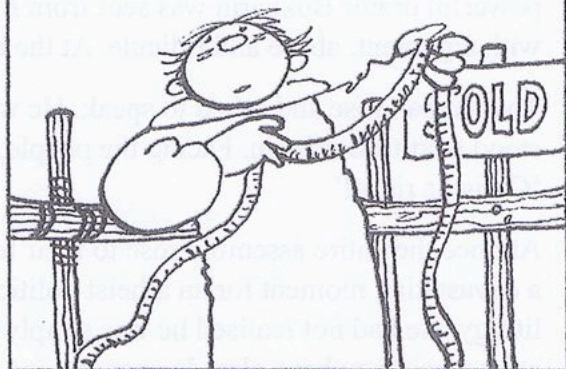


OH! NO!!

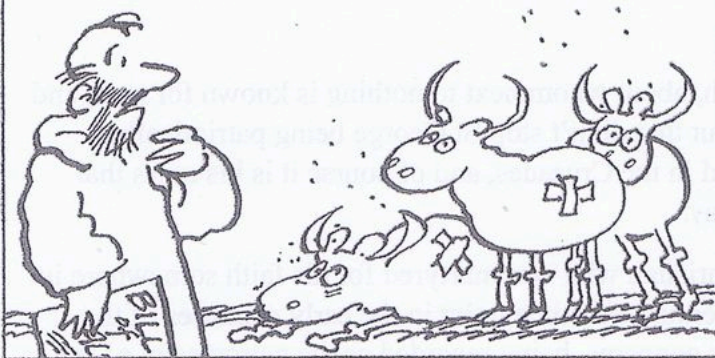


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT

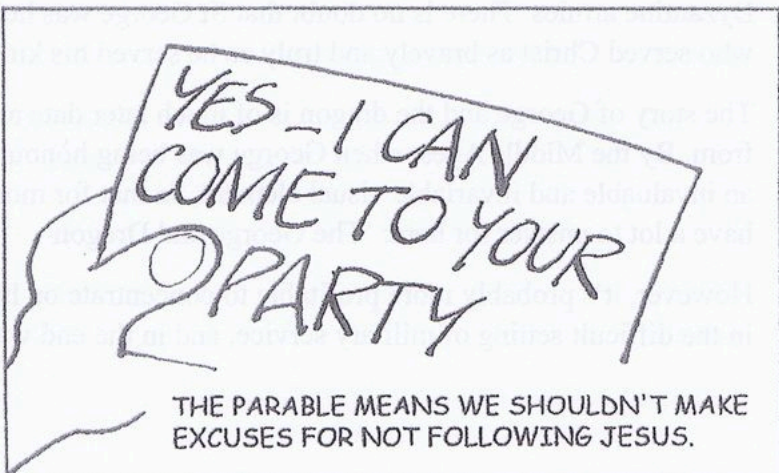


ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

## **1<sup>st</sup> April – Fooling Around**

Probably the most famous April Fool's joke of all time was the 1960's BBC TV broadcast feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. A BBC reporter interviewed Italian farmers about their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants in great detail. Spaghetti plants were filmed being carefully planted, and then being harvested. And all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner. It took a while to appreciate that this was Auntie playing games. Whatever next!

The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of this very British tradition. Most attribute it to changes in Britain's calendar in the 1700s, when New Year's Day moved from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> January. Not surprisingly, the change caused a lot of confusion and mistakes around the start of April. Others look even further back, to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the Spring Equinox, 25<sup>th</sup> March.

*Parish Pumo 2026*

## **Easter faith in atheist Russia**

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people that God does not exist when they have already encountered Him?

*Parish Pumo 2026*

## **St George, our Patron Saint who isn't English**

The English have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all. But that didn't stop St George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers – 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' – one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause.

Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty – they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our admiration.

*Parish Pumo 2026*

### **Peaceful mind in Eastertide**

*Easter is a time of rejoicing over what Christ has done for us. The following may be helpful.*

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. – *1 John 4:9*

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – *Romans 5:6-8*

But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you. – *Romans 8:10,11*

*Parish Pumo 2026*

### **Dawn chorus**

If you sleep with your bedroom window open, you will know all about the dawn chorus around now. The birds are busy establishing their territorial rights, and the 'early birds' have probably already selected a nest site and started building.

The blackbird builds a solid cup of twigs, plant stems and leaves, lined with a thick skin of mud covered with finer grasses and leaves. The long-tailed tit forms a soft hollow ball of mosses, hair and wool, with a tiny hole as entrance. The wrens do it differently, with the male wren sometimes building several nests before his finicky mate will accept one. He gets his revenge, though, because he sometimes installs a second wife in one of the rejected sites.

*Parish Pumo 2026*

### **What does your child know about red squirrels?**

Sadly, red squirrels are now so rare in Britain that many of our children are not even sure what they are. A recent study found that one in 10 children are unable to even identify a red squirrel when shown a picture of one. And a third of British children do not know that red squirrels live in the UK.

It all means that our native species of squirrel is at risk of being forgotten as the larger grey American invader takes over.

In order to combat this trend, Centre Parc, in collaboration with The Wildlife Trusts, has launched a campaign to create a red squirrel emoji. The aim is to help increase awareness of the species among our young people.

Parish Puno 2026

## All in the month of April

It was:

400 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1626 that Francis Bacon, philosopher and politician, died. He served as Attorney General of England and Wales (1613-17) and then Lord High Chancellor of England (1617-21). Known as the 'Father of Empiricism', as his works influenced the scientific revolution in Europe.

125 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1901 that Richard D'Oyly Carte, theatrical impresario, died. He built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded a touring opera company.

90 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1936 that Roy Orbison, American singer, songwriter and musician was born. Best known for *Oh, Pretty Woman*, *Crying*, *Only the Lonely*, and many more.

80 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1946 that Sue Townsend, writer and humourist, was born. Best known for her *Adrian Mole* series of novels.

5 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1951 that the Peak District National Park was established. It was Britain's first National Park.

70 years ago, on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1956 that American film actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier III of Monaco and became Princess Grace of Monaco.

65 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1961 that South African golfer Gary Player became the first non-American to win the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia.

Also 65 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1961 that Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space and the first person to orbit the Earth.

50 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1976 that the UK won the 1976 Eurovision Song Contest with *Save Your Kisses for Me* by Brotherhood of Man.

40 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1986 that Halley's Comet made its closest approach to Earth during its most recent visit. It will return to Earth's vicinity in 2061 and 2134.

Also 40 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1986 that TV journalist John McCarthy was kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon by the militant group Islamic Jihad. Released 1991.

Also 40 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1986 that Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor and American wife of Prince Edward, formerly King Edward VIII, died.

30 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1996 that during the BSE ('mad cow disease') outbreak, the government announced that it would begin slaughtering all cattle over the age of 30 months to eradicate the disease. In the end, 80,000 cattle were slaughtered.

25 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2001 that NASA launched its Mars Odyssey spacecraft to search for evidence of water and volcanic activity on Mars. It found water and ice below the surface.

15 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011 that Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton were married at Westminster Abbey in London. They were given the titles Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

10 years ago, on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 that Victoria Wood, comedian, actress, singer and songwriter died. Remembered for *Victoria Wood as seen on TV*.

Parish Pumo 2026

### What's orange, sticky and worth preserving?

This month sees National Marmalade Week (18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April). If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they hold the World Marmalade Awards & Festival. It celebrates, preserves and promotes artisanal marmalades, with thousands of entries. (Even Paddington Bear will be in attendance!)

If you like marmalade, ever wonder where it comes from? One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate to sell before they went mouldy. A local down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a shipload of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born.

Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it. Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade. If you also want to get your fingers sticky, visit: [www.marmaladeawards.com](http://www.marmaladeawards.com).

Parish Pumo 2026

### Parish Pump Smile Lines

**From a church notice-sheet:** This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

\*\*

A Sunday School teacher asked her pupils if they could describe any of the miracles that Jesus performed. One youngster responded: "Yes, He cured people who had leopards."

\*\*

I can see how astronomers figure out the distance of the stars and their size and temperatures and all that. What really gets me is how they find out what their names are!

\*\*

When I was a kid and getting put to bed at 9pm, I couldn't wait until I was a grown-up and could stay up until whatever time I wanted. That time is, apparently, 9pm.



## Rooms Available to Let at Foley Park Methodist Church (DY11 6LD)

Foley Park Methodist Church has a range of rooms available to hire on an hourly basis — ideal for community groups, clubs, classes, meetings, and activities of all kinds.

**Various room sizes to suit small gatherings or larger groups Flexible hourly bookings  
Convenient location in DY11 6LD Accessible facilities Kitchen access available (by arrangement) On-site parking**

Whether you're running a weekly group, hosting a one-off session, or looking for a welcoming space for your organisation, we'd love to support you.

**For enquiries or to check availability, please contact:**

David Warrington tel: 01562742373

email: [bigdave147\\_1999@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bigdave147_1999@yahoo.co.uk)



### Crossword answers:

**ACROSS:** 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

**DOWN:** 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

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### Sudoku puzzle solution:

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

# 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)

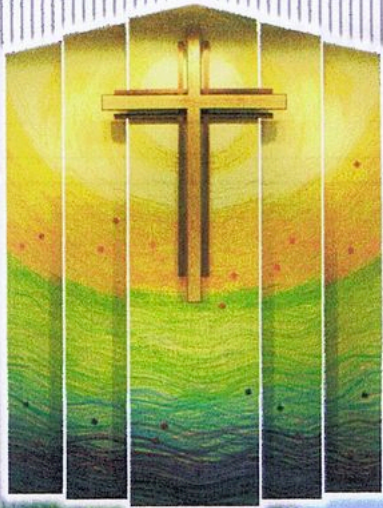


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◆ Trinity Methodist Church ◆



### 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](http://www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk)

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