

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*



All are welcome in this place!

May 2026

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

Church Website: www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk

Circuit Website: kandsmethodistcircuit.org.uk

Minister: Rev'd. Verity Phillips 01562 823300

Senior Stewards: Mrs Sandra Baker 01562 850861

Mrs Jan Smith 01562 631063

Contact People for:

Finance: Mr Iestyn Davies 01562 740429

Property: Mr John Bacon 01562 744502

Bookings: Mr Stephen Howles 07580 009755

Custodian: Mr Stephen Howles 07580 009755

Trinity Tidings Editorial Team:

Mr David Skitt 07816 058698

01299 401047

Mrs Joan Davies 01562 740429

The closing date for items for the June '26 Edition of Trinity Tidings is
Sunday 24th May 2026

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

Dear friends,

This month we reach the end of the explorations we began in the autumn. Each Church Council and then Circuit Meeting will need to reach their own decision, but the overwhelming feeling of the Circuit Vision meeting on 18th April was that we would like to focus our energies on mission for the next few years, rather than on merging with another circuit. We noticed that there are lots of ways in which the Churches of the Circuit could work together, and we recognised that there are people in every Church who have ideas, skills, and enthusiasm. We recognised that we need to listen more and more deeply – to God, to our communities, and to one another, and that we sometimes need help and advice from other people; in our communities, and in the wider Church beyond our Circuit.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians 16:1-4, he seems to jump suddenly from some glorious theology about the resurrection and its victory over sin in chapter 15, through a single sentence on commitment to Christ, to the words, "Now, about the collection for God's people ...". He is in effect asking for support for the apostles and Christians in Jerusalem who were running out of funds before he ends the letter. I need to do something similar, even though it's a taboo subject these days.

At the Vision Meeting we also noticed that we need to address our finances; that joining another circuit wouldn't change this. We took the bold decision three or four years ago to use capital reserves to employ a deacon in 2023 for five years, to explore what outreach potential there was in the Stourport area. Two and a half years in, this is proving very fruitful ... but for the work begun and about to begin to get established, this post might need to be extended beyond the initial five years.

Our income as a circuit of five Churches would need to increase by above inflation for us to sustain two members of staff into the 2030s. Understandably, during Covid the financial assessment for each Church was kept level, but costs have not, and now we need to increase our income even if we are to be able to sustain just one minister beyond the mid-2030s.

Our regular giving or 'tithing' is always a matter for nobody but ourselves and God to decide, through personal prayer. We need information to be able to make wise decisions. Please, ask those who attended the meeting on 18th April, and your treasurer or the Circuit Treasurer, if you have any questions, and consider in what ways Mission and fundraising and Service and our properties and God's Call and our abilities combine to enable our churches to flourish. Even if everyone in the circuit gave 50p more each week it would make a difference, but there are some who cannot pay their bills as it is, so of course we couldn't ask pennies of anyone. Instead we remember what Jesus said about the widow's mite in Luke 21:1-4. We also remember that giving is not just a matter of finance; it includes the gift of time and abilities, of wisdom, even of a smile or a kindness shown. Growing Churches often have growing giving of every kind. Sometimes this also increases through fundraising events, awareness raising, and doing what God calls us to do.

For my part, I would like to thank this Circuit for its generous love and kindness. I arrived as a minister who had taken a few knocks and lost a lot of confidence. You have helped me to heal and to find my courage – a courage which now depends so much more on the grace of God than it did before. With two bereavements and a house move to an area of the country I knew nothing about in one year, to a role which would stretch me, it has been a challenging time, but it has been made beautiful and amazing through the deep cushion of your welcoming acceptance of me 'just as I am'. I know this is not something reserved for one person; as a circuit we offer it to all who come near, and that is why I firmly believe that God has not only 'not finished with us yet'; he has much in store just waiting for us to discover it. The "exploration" may be over. The journey is about to begin!

God bless you,

Verity

PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz Potter, Betty Norman, Josephine and Ranzi Seremwe, Maureen Homer, Pauline Pinner and 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.

Pentecost 

During the month of May, please remember in your prayers, the people and places in the area of Kidderminster, known as Wolverley.

Wolverley

May

Wolverley C.E. Secondary School, Wolverley Primary School and Nursery, Heathfield Knoll School and Nursery

Nightingale Court Nursing Home

The Canalways

St Johns' the Baptist C E Church

Eateries

Doctors surgery and Community Centre

Residential Housing



From the Editor.....

Dear Friends,

This year seems to be going by at such a speed, there will soon be Christmas cards in the shops!

It is lovely to wake up to hear the birds singing, and watch them busy with their nests and some of them feeding the young ones. There is a blackbird that sits on the top of a telegraph pole by my bedroom window, so I don't need an alarm clock! The swallows are back at the farm up the lane, but no sign of them nesting here yet. They did last year, so I hope they come again this year.

I have lived here at the station for 26 years, and the number and species of birds has dropped significantly, except for wood pigeons!

My potatoes are now growing and the tops are above soil level. There is nothing nicer than digging up a root of potatoes and picking a handful of runner beans and 30 minutes later they are ready for Sunday lunch.

People often say how lovely it is to sit and relax in a garden, but it is a lot of hard work, most of it on your knees. I have a running battle with ground elder and bindweed. It's a battle that I never win!

My garden looks untidy, but it is my wild garden.....well that's my excuse and I am sticking to it!

David



OFFERTORIES FOR THE FOUR WEEKS TO 19th APRIL ARE AS FOLLOWS

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
29.03.26 & 05.04.26	187.60	300.00	1563.45	2051.05
12.04.26 & 19.04.26	320.00	200.00	1810.50	2330.50

This is a weekly average of £1095.38

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

SERVICES IN MAY

May 3 rd	10.30am	Rev Verity Phillips	-- Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips	-- Healing Service
May 10 th	10.30am	Mr David Skitt	
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips	-- Café Worship
May 17 th	10.30am	Dr Ken Mothersdale	
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips	
May 24 th	10.30am	Local Arrangement	
		Circuit Service	-- Time to be arranged

TUESDAY GROUP

The next meeting of the Tuesday Group will be on Tuesday May 5th at 2.30pm

The speaker is David Skitt

What it is like to live at Arley Station on the Severn Valley Railway.

All are welcome, tea and cakes afterwards.

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!



CHRISTIAN AID

Coffee Morning

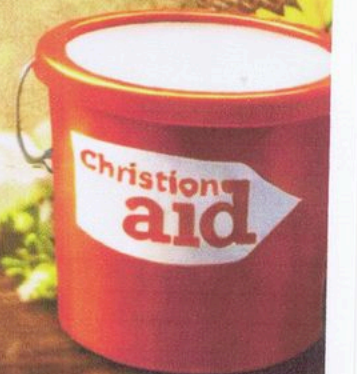


Christian
aid

Trinity Methodist Church

Saturday 16th May 2026

10-12



All welcome!

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!

A Quiz about all sorts of things

1. Which choir made popular the song 'All in the April evening'?
2. What season is May in the Southern Hemisphere?
3. On 1st May 1851 Queen Victoria opened what in London?
4. In May 1707 The Act of Union united which two countries?
5. In 1960 the Anne Frank House opened in which city?
6. In May 1821 who died in exile on the island of St. Helena?
7. In May 1954 which athlete broke the 'Four minute Mile'?
8. In May of which year was the Penny Black Stamp first issued?
9. What is the birth flower for the month of May?
10. What is the birthstone for the month of May?
11. May was considered to be an unlucky day for doing what?
12. A famous soft drink was first produced in May 1886. What was it?
13. In May 1796 Dr Edward Jenner successfully vaccinated a patient against what?
14. Rory McIlroy is famous in which sport?
15. Sir Ed Davey is leader of which British political party?
16. In the cartoon series what is the name of Tin Tin's dog?
17. In the Beatles song what is the surname of Eleanor.....?
18. What is the middle name of C. S. Lewis?
19. What is the term for someone who collects books?
20. Which is the oldest British University founded in 1249?

DAY TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM.

If you have never been to the N.M.A before, you will find that it is a very big area, with memorials to all aspects of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and also to Civilian organisations from wartime days to modern times. The N.M.A is expanding all the time.

The central area is a memorial to members of the armed forces who died, and names are being added to it regularly.

We leave Trinity at 9.00am aiming to be there by 10.30am. The reason being that at 11.00am there is a very short service in the Chapel and the appropriate words of Remembrance are spoken and the Last Post played. This happens every day of the year.

I would recommend that you book a seat on the Land Train. This goes all round the site, and there is a recorded commentary pointing out things that you might miss. You have to pay for this.

There is an excellent restaurant, and also a smaller café.

Once we have sold enough tickets to cover the cost of the coach any money over will be given to the N.M.A. as a donation.

I hope that those who are going will find it a very special place.

United Reformed Church

Help drown out division with a million acts of hope. Across the UK, everyday acts of kindness, care and connection are happening all the time and are often louder than the voices of hate and division. This May, join us in celebrating them as part of
A Million Acts of Hope.

TRUSSELL TRUST.

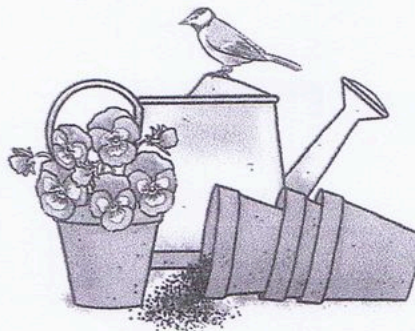
At Trussell, Emma reflected on the Easter message and the hope that it can renew in us as we work together. And this week, we're going to share how we can keep sparking hope through the [A Million Acts of Hope campaign](#) together this May.

Watching the news or looking at your social media feed, it's easy to feel more disconnected and divided than ever before.

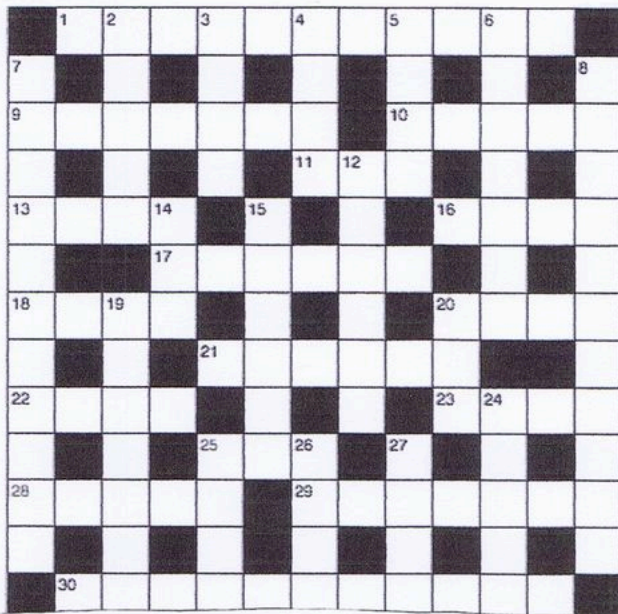
But the reality is you, and millions of people across the UK, show up for each other, your neighbours and your communities every single day. Whether it's donating to food banks, volunteering at community activities, or offering a listening ear over a cup of tea – acts of hope and kindness happen all the time.

Sharing these stories – your stories – instil hope and bring communities together.

From Wednesday 13 – Wednesday 20 May, Trussell will be joining community and faith groups, alongside charities big and small, to come together to celebrate and inspire [A Million Acts of Hope](#). We know that some of you are already involved in this initiative, but for those who are not, we'd love to invite you to get involved.



Parish Pump Crossword



Sudoku Puzzle (Easy)

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

Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
- 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
- 10 'Each man—a sword to his side' (Exodus 32:27) (5)
- 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
- 13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)
- 16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought—and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
- 17 Stir up or provoke (Acts 13:50) (6)
- 18 Burden (Luke 11:46) (4)
- 20 'As far as the east is from the—, so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
- 21 Sign (Luke 23:38) (6)
- 22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
- 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
- 25 Has (anag.) (3)
- 28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, —sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
- 29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
- 30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
- 3 'A bruised — He will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
- 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
- 5 Slip (anag.) (4)
- 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
- 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
- 8 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
- 12 Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6)
- 14 Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)
- 15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on—!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
- 19 Refrain (1 Peter 2:11) (7)
- 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears' (Luke 7:38) (3)
- 24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)
- 25 'Give to everyone who—you' (Luke 6:30) (4)
- 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
- 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

GARDENING NOTES FOR MAY

May is a really busy time in the garden, with a lot to do and some careful thinking and pre-planning will be required if we are to maximise the available time.

Greenfly may be becoming a problem on the soft new growth on roses. Spray regularly with a systemic insecticide and try to combat black spot and mildew early on if possible. Rolling of leaves may be a sign of the caterpillar of the tortrix moth, or even sawfly. Pick and burn the leaves, don't compost or drop them on the ground.

Borders will require regular weeding now with the hoe; do it with care. Stake taller herbaceous plants such as delphiniums, otherwise strong winds could snap them in half if in full flower and made heavy with rain. Keep an eye on sweet peas to ensure they don't dry out in any prolonged dry spell. Remove any weeds growing around them if necessary and mulch with peat or compost.

If the weather has been warm, then we've probably been treated to a spectacular display of colour from rhododendrons and azaleas. As soon as the flower fades it should be removed to prevent the bush expending energy in producing unwanted seed. Care is required when deadheading so that the soft new green growth isn't damaged, as it is from this growth immediately beneath the faded flower that next year's bloom is formed. The easiest and safest way to deadhead a rhododendron is to simply 'snap' off the faded bloom between thumb and forefinger; that way you're less likely to damage the developing bud beneath. Please avoid the temptation to use a pair of secateurs.

It should be safe by now to plant out dahlia tubers, although always keep an eye on the forecast. Dahlia will tolerate a variety of soil types but they are hungry feeders and incorporating bulky organic matter at planting time would be beneficial. Set the tubers about 2 to 3 feet apart and plant about 2" - 3" deeper than the crown of the plant. The plants will eventually need staking (unless they are obviously dwarf varieties) as their heads usually become quite heavy.

May is traditionally the month when hanging baskets are constructed and really they are quite simple to make up. Stand the empty basket on a large pot to keep it steady and then line the inside of the basket with damp moss. Fill the base with compost and then place a small square of polythene (part of the compost bag will do), this helps with water retention. If you wish you can poke trailing plants through the moss as you go, filling the basket with compost in layers. Fill the upper section with plants so that some trail over the rim. Don't allow the basket to dry out and ensure that the bracket that is going to support it on the wall is secure!

The soft new growth of herbaceous plants will be susceptible to slug damage so should be protected by a scattering of slug pellets or liquid applications. When applied as directed, products are perfectly safe to both domestic and wild animals.

Early May is the traditional time to plant out garden Chrysanthemums for flowering in late summer and early autumn, although don't be tempted to plant out tomato plants until late May at the earliest. In this area it's probably best to wait until early June.

Save summer annuals in well-prepared beds in blocks for maximum effect. Some of the best include: Calendula, Candytuft, Coreopsis, Cornflowers, Eschscholzia, Godetia, Kochia, Lavatera, Linaria, Nigella, Poppies, Scabious and Sunflowers.

If May turns out to be dry, then ensure newly planted shrubs and herbaceous plants are kept watered. A thorough soaking once a week will be of more benefit than the 'little and often' approach which could do more damage by promoting surface rooting, exacerbating the effects of drought.

Bob

A Splash of Vinegar

Easter is the most holy time in the Christian calendar; we remember those tragic 3 days of over 2000 years ago. So why am I talking about it now, since Easter is over for another year? Simply because of writings in each of the 4 Gospels gives us an insight to medicine. We will use John 19 v28-30. "Jesus said I am thirsty. A jar of wine vinegar was there so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the Hyssop plant and lifted it to Jesus's lips. When He had received the drink Jesus said "It is finished". With that He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit". We think that giving someone Vinegar was a disgrace, a punishment. However, we think wrong. It was a life saver.

The vinegar of biblical days was a soured wine and although not a very sweet taste, it was refreshing. It was the drink of labourers and especially soldiers. Where water was scarce it helped to make fluids last longer, helped against fatigue. Add a bit of honey and water and you were on your way to the London marathon! Vinegar is rich in potassium, vitally important to our body's chemistry. Although they were not aware of vinegar's properties, they were certainly aware of its benefits. In fact, by 400BC it was a well-known source of medicine and healing. It was used by Hippocrates. It was proved to be a resistant to bacteria, both inside or out of the body. It was well known that physicians washed their hands in vinegar before performing a surgical procedure. So vinegar becomes part of medicine today.

The first mention of vinegar in the Bible comes in Ruth "At mealtime Boaz said to her come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar". NIV, Ruth 2v14. So vinegar was the great pick me up. Although not to everyone's taste; see Psalm 69 "Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless, I looked for sympathy, but there was none. They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst". So vinegar was both hope and sadness.

Through history the uses of vinegar are unbelievable. A poultice for swollen joints, a rub for skin ailments, gargle for sore throats, skin toughener, put it on burns and if you want to look good put it on after a shampoo, it makes your hair shine. In biblical days the mix of wine vinegar with frankincense, myrrh or gall were well known. A small drop of vinegar could cure all ills! In these early days vinegar was known as a miracle drug. Coming back to the crucifixion, there was a small group of women who called themselves the "Daughters of Jerusalem", who offered people about to be crucified this drink. Jesus refused it "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep for yourselves and for your children" ("Luke 23 v28). Jesus did take a drink on the cross to quench His thirst (Matt. 27v48) "Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar to quench His thirst. So vinegar is the life saver. This wine or The Bible has done its job – it gave Jesus peace in His final hour. Just remember it, that extra splash of vinegar on your chips makes you a man of God.

Mike (Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

Mike's Smile Lines

Patient: Doctor, Doctor, how can I cure myself of sleepwalking.

Doctor: Put drawing pins of the floor.

**

Psychiatrist: How long has your husband thought he was Napoleon?

Wife: Since Waterloo.

**

1st man: I've just bought a Japanese TV

2nd Man: How can you understand the language?

**

An elephant is very large
They ought to have him shrink,
And pack his great big body
Inside his little trunk.

**

Jane: What's the weather like?

Mary: I can't see, because of the fog.

**

Man: If this swelling in my legs gets any worse, I won't be able to get my trousers on.

Doctor: Right, I'll give you a prescription for a kilt.

**

Man: Do you know your dog keeps barking all through the night

Neighbour: I don't worry, he sleeps all day.

**

In days of old girls went out to swim

Looking like Old Mother Hubbard.

Today they don't look quite so prim

But a bit more like her cupboard!

**

I've always been profoundly deaf. The wife took me to the ballet. She said did you like it. I said yes, but I couldn't understand a word they were saying

**

Doctor, I took you advice to eat more fruit with the skins on, but I am struggling with pineapples, bananas and coconuts.

**

A waiter is a man who believes that money grows on trays.

**

1st pickpocket: Did you have any luck over the weekend?

2nd pickpocket: No, I spent it at a nudist camp.

**

A woman visited a fruit farm and was amazed what she saw. "What do you do with all this fruit? She asked the farmer. "Well, we eat and sell what we can and what we can't we can"

**

And then there's the joke about a bed. You haven't heard it? No, well it hasn't been made up yet.



From March 2020 you will remember that because of Covid we were in lock down and I was not able to produce any copies of Tidings but instead different people in the church produced a monthly newsletter which was sent out to members of Trinity

This one was written by Anne and George Perkin, who sadly are no longer with us. As you read it, you can see that as the years go by, nothing seems to change.

As this letter arrives into your home we hope that you feel well and safe and that these thoughts will bring you some encouragement at this extremely difficult time. We send you all a big hug!
Anne and George

One of the lectionary readings for today is 1 Peter chapter 1 verses 3-9. The church Peter was writing to is described as confused and discouraged – not because of a pandemic- but due to persecution they were encountering because of their faith. Peter writes:

“In this you rejoice though now for a little while...you have been grieved by various trials so that the genuineness of your faith..... may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

We are certainly being tested but we have time and opportunity to rethink our attitude and our behaviour. Time to re-evaluate what is really important and how we should live. Jesus gave us a framework to build our lives on known as the Beatitudes. Our prayer below is based on them.

Dear loving Lord hear our prayer.

BLESSED ARE THE POOR We pray for those struggling financially *May we be generous.*

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN We pray for the many families who have lost loved ones in such distressing circumstances. *May we share their pain.*

BLESSED ARE THE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY We pray for those who are selflessly taking food parcels to adults and children in need. *May we put the needs of others before our own.*

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL We pray for the whole army of people – professional and volunteers- who are tending to those in need in hospitals, care homes, shelters and individual homes. Bless them Lord and give them the strength they need to keep going. *May we learn from their courage and self-sacrifice and remember to pray for them each day this week.*

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS We pray for those who have responsibility for keeping the peace and enforcing the rules at this time and for those who are called on to deal with domestic violence often triggered by being cooped up in crowded spaces or by stress and money worries. *May we be willing wherever possible to listen to those in crisis and support others whenever we can.*

In our homes, we meet to worship, far away from sacred space.

By the Spirit, Christ is with us, making this a holy place.

In these days of social distance, we are called to meet apart.

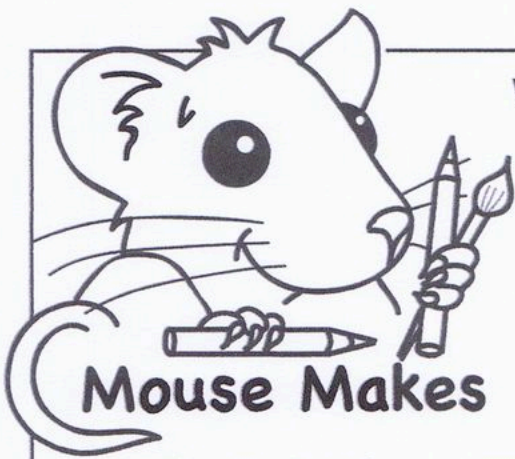
Still we pray for one another, hold each other in our heart.

If this time indeed is holy, we must keep it truly so.

in our isolation, God's rich blessings overflow.

We avoid the world's distractions, set our minds on things above

Patience, kindness, goodness, mercy, faith, joy, peace, abiding love. Amen



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

Genesis 1:2

The

of the Father.

Acts 1:4

The Spirit of

A

Romans 8:15

H

John 14:26

The Spirit of

John 16:13

The Spirit of

Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

___O___

___Y___

___C___

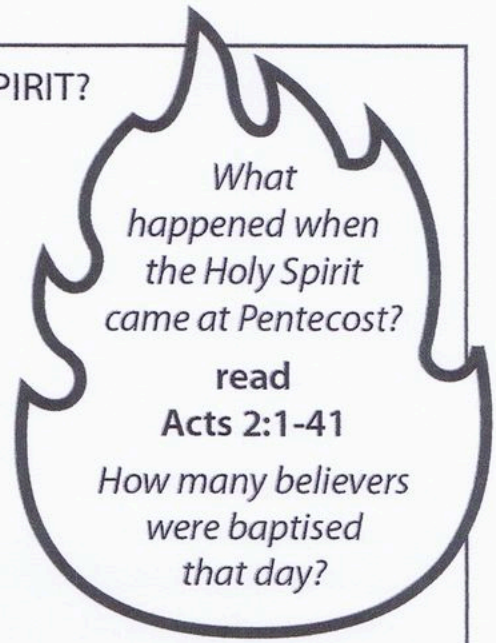
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O G C O M F O R T E R L C
K E O N P P E A C E G O D
I N U F A K J D H J R R F
N T N A T L O V E O A D H
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S N O P E P T E A C H E R
J S R J O T R U T H F S Y
R S P I R I T I L U I U K
K P P R O M I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



Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Samuel 8:1-10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel
but he was now old. The leaders of the
twelve tribes came to talk to him...

We want a king like all
the other countries



God told Samuel

It's not you they are
rejecting but Me.



If you have a king, he will
take your sons to be his
army and your daughters to
work in his palace.



He will take the best of
your land, your crops
and your animals



We still want a king.

Samuel sent them home.



I was
hoping he would choose me..

Saul and his servant were
looking for some donkeys
that had run off.



They decided to ask
Samuel to ask God
where the donkeys were



God told Samuel that
Saul was to be the
king



Samuel called everyone to a
meeting and told them that
God had chosen a king.



God told them that Saul
was to be their king...



but Saul was hiding.

He's behind the luggage.



and they found Saul.

The people cheered!



Long live the King!

Julian of Norwich, voice from a distant cell

Julian of Norwich was born in 1342 and wrote at the end of the 14th century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English. We know little about Julian's early life, but when she was 30, she fell ill and was near death when suddenly her pain left her, and she received 16 visitations. Julian wrote these down, in what became known as the 'short text'. 20 years later she extended this to become her 'long text'.

She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her little 'cell'. Julian taught that all things depend upon the love of God for their being. Her spirituality was focussed on the cross, and she wanted to share the sufferings of Christ. She believed that humanity is separated from God by sin, but redeemed through Christ, who reunites us with God. Julian also emphasised Christ as mother, but within a clear Trinitarian understanding of the godhead.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that it is still read by many thousands of Christians today. One of the notable features is that her theology determined her experience, rather than the other way round.

She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.

Parish Pump 2026

Where did Jesus go at the Ascension?

In Salvador Dali's picture of Jesus' ascension all you can see are his feet! As we celebrate the event this month, it prompts the question 'where did Jesus go?' Peter says Jesus 'has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). However, the New Testament tells us three things about what Jesus is doing at the Father's side.

At Pentecost Peter said that Jesus is 'exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear... "The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand"' (Acts 2: 33-4). Peter is affirming Jesus' position of authority and power at the heart of the universe. By pouring out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon us, Jesus gives us a foretaste of the life of heaven ie eternal life, forgiveness, healing, release and God's provision for our lives.

When Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was being stoned to death by the Jewish authorities he points out, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' (Acts 7:56). Our experience of heaven is only ever partial, as we live with the reality of suffering and setbacks. However, Jesus is still on the throne! We are called to trust him daily.

The Bible also tells us that 'Christ Jesus who died....is interceding for us.' (Romans 8:34, cf Hebrews 7:25). Even when we don't know how to pray, we have the assurance that Jesus is already praying for us! He knows our needs even better than we do ourselves, so when we feel condemned or defeated in our Christian lives, we have somebody on our side!

The Ascension reminds us that the risen Jesus lives in the immediate presence of God, and both transcends and embraces our present experience. This truth lies at the heart of the *up* language used to describe the event.

'Heaven relates to earth tangentially so that the One who is in heaven can be present simultaneously anywhere and everywhere on earth: the ascension therefore means that Jesus is available, accessible, without people having to travel to a particular spot on the earth to find Him.' (Tom Wright).

Parish Pump 2026

Ever thought about wearing a cross as a necklace?

"Good morning, sir, madam. You're interested in a cross and chain I believe? Very wise, sir, if I might say so. So modern, so chic. Never out of fashion. Will you be interested in one with the little man on it, or without?"

"Let us see both, please."

"Very wise sir. Now here we have the traditional model, but with a small diamond in the centre. Let's people know you're not without means, just a gentle hint there. Discreet size too, sir, not too pushy if you see what I mean. No?... Okay, what about this one... you look like a sporty-type sir, this one is lightweight, comes in various colours, to blend with your track suit or gym wear....or this one sir..... the 'Weekend' model – slightly larger so you can project well, particularly on Sundays, sir..... Or we have this one sir, imported from Jerusalem, so it's very authentic, made of olive wood, I think there's a special something about that don't you sir?... Or here's our very latest model, just come in, it's recyclable, so when you get tired of it you can happily recycle it and know it's not going to landfill.

Very ethical sir.

"Now madam, here's one of our high-end models, which I think madam will like; encrusted with small rubies, very appropriate I'm sure you'll agree. Again, it gives just that little hint you're a discerning person, yes? Or this one, it's in plain gold, but rather larger because it plays 'There is a green hill far away' if you touch it, which is very sweet, don't you think? "

'We were looking for something more traditional, plainer.'

"Well, we can do that sir, if you wish. I just thought that madam might like something more in keeping with the times, if you see what I mean. Right, so two plain cross and chains. I'll wrap them up right away..."

If you wear a cross and chain, or have a cross as a tattoo, what do you want it to say about you? What does the cross of Jesus mean to you?

If you were asked *why* you wear a cross, how would you respond? And would it be an easy, or embarrassed response? Talk to God about this.

By the Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.

Parish Pump 2026

There is a lot of talk about 'mindfulness' these days, and how to find calm moments in our daily lives. Both the BBC and Classic FM have even got radio stations devoted to 'mindful' and 'calm' music. But as Christians, we have an extra, divine resource to call on, as the following article reminds us:

Peaceful mind in the month of Pentecost

Luke 11:11-13

Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

John 14:15-18

If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Parish Pump 2026

All in the month of May

It was:

400 years ago, on 4th May 1626 that the Dutch explorer Peter Minuit arrived on the east coast of what is now the USA. He negotiated the purchase of Manhattan Island from the Lenape Native Americans for \$24 worth of cloth and buttons. (Equal to about \$1,150 today.)

300 years ago, on 25th May 1726 that the world's first Circulating Library (lending library) was launched by Scottish poet and bookseller Allan Ramsay at his bookshop in Edinburgh.

200 years ago, on 29th May 1826 that Ebenezer Butterick, American tailor was born. He and his wife invented tissue paper dress patterns in multiple sizes, and thereby revolutionised home dressmaking.

100 years ago, on 4th to 12th May 1926 that the UK's General Strike was held. The Trade Union Congress (TUC) called a General Strike in support of 1.2 million coal miners. The strike lasted nine days, and had little effect.

90 years ago, on 7th May 1936 that British aviator Amy Johnson made the fastest-ever (at that time) solo flight from England to Cape Town.

75 years ago, on 9th May 1951 that the Lake District National Park was established as Britain's second national park.

Also 75 years ago, on 25th May 1951 that British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to Moscow. They were members of the infamous Cambridge spy ring.

65 years ago, on 31st May 1961 that Michael Ramsay became Archbishop of Canterbury (until 1974).

15 years ago, on 2nd May 2011 that Osama bin Laden, Saudi Arabian-born terrorist, was shot dead by US forces in Pakistan. He was the founder of Al-Qaeda and is thought to have masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the USA.

Parish Pump 2026

Happy 70th Birthday, Eurovision Song Contest

This year's Eurovision Song Contest, to be held 12th to 16th May in Vienna, will look a bit different as it marks its 70th birthday.

That is because Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain have opted out, as a protest to the inclusion of Israel in the contest, following the war in Gaza. That is the largest number of boycotting countries in the contest's history since 1970. On the other hand, at least Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania are set to return this year.

Eurovision is a long-established annual international celebration of music. This year's programme will consist of two semi-finals, on 12th and 14th May, and then a final on the 16th. It will be held at Wiener Stadthalle in Vienna, and presented by Victoria Swarovski and Michael Ostrowski. Broadcasters from 35 countries will also participate.

Britain has won the Eurovision five times in 70 years:

1967 Puppet on a String
1969 Boom Bang-a-Bang
1976 Save Your Kisses for Me
1981 Making Your Mind Up
1997 Love Shine a Light

Parish Pimp 2026

National Biscuit Day – 29th May

Did you know that Britain is the country with the highest biscuit consumption in the world? According to industry research, we each eat about 500 biscuits a year. And the great biscuit dunking debate – over which biscuit holds up best when dipped in tea – can spark surprisingly passionate discussion.

Biscuits have been part of our daily lives for centuries. Their dose of sweet, tasty comfort is loved by 2-year-olds and 90-year-olds, and every age in between.

And so National Biscuit Day is held each year to honour this beloved snack. Our national favourite seems to be the chocolate digestive, followed by shortbread and chocolate fingers. But don't underestimate the appeal of custard creams, hobnobs, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies!

The McVitie's Digestive, first produced in 1892, is one of the most iconic biscuits in British history. Today, it remains a bestseller alongside other classics like the Rich Tea, the Bourbon, and the Jammie Dodger.

The word 'biscuit' comes from the Latin *panis biscoctus*, meaning 'twice-cooked bread'. In Roman times, flour-based provisions were baked twice, to remove moisture, making them durable enough for long journeys. Ancient Egyptian sailors and Roman soldiers relied on these early biscuits as a portable, long-lasting food source.

The transformation from practical sustenance to sweet treat began around the seventh century, when Persian bakers added eggs, butter, cream, and eventually sugar and honey to their recipes, creating some of the earliest cookies in history. By the Middle Ages, biscuits had spread across Europe, with each region developing its own favourite.

The Industrial Revolution brought mass production to the biscuit world. British firms like McVitie's, Huntley and Palmers, and Carr's produced biscuits on an unprecedented scale. In 1831, Huntley and Palmers even invented the decorative biscuit tin, which not only kept biscuits fresh but also made them an attractive gift item.

Parish Pump 2026

Parish Pump Smile Lines

Notices found in church newsletters – that didn't quite come out right!

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the vicar's sermons.

**

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last weekend in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.

Two men were working for the town council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it – why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

**

Golfer to caddy: "Why didn't you watch where my ball went?"

Caddy to golfer: "I'm so sorry. Your ball doesn't usually go anywhere, so this took me completely by surprise."

**

A father of five young children won a toy at a raffle. Back home, he called his children together to let them determine which one should have the present. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to Mother? Who does everything she says?"

Five small voices answered in unison: "You, Daddy!"

**

The father of a family – who was a big-time techie – got his oldest daughter an iPhone for her birthday. He also got an iPad for his son. Later he bought an iPod for the youngest daughter. Then, when his wedding anniversary rolled around, he got his wife an iRon. That's when things went wrong.

**

A man burst into a flower shop and urgently demanded two pink potted geraniums. The clerk explained that they did not have any, but could offer him African violets instead. "No," said the man sadly. "It was geraniums that my wife told me to water while she was gone."



Quote of the month

A happy marriage is a union of two good forgivers. – Robert Quillen

QUIZ ANSWERS...

1. The Glasgow Orpheus Choir
2. Autumn
3. The Great Exhibition
4. England and Scotland
5. Amsterdam
6. Napoleon Bonaparte
7. Dr Roger bannister
8. 1841
9. Lily of the Valley
10. Emerald
11. Getting married!
12. Coca Cola
13. Smallpox
14. Golf
15. Liberal Democrat party
16. Snowy (or Milou in the original French)
17. Rigby
18. Staples
19. Bibliophile
20. Oxford

Sudoku solution:

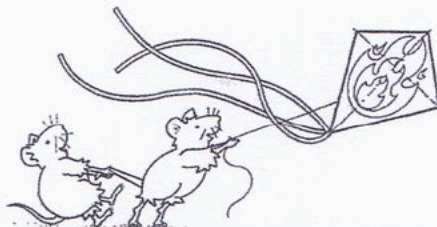
8	2	1	6	5	3	9	4	7
6	5	9	1	7	4	3	2	8
7	3	4	8	2	9	6	1	5
5	4	3	9	1	7	2	8	6
2	6	7	5	4	8	1	3	9
9	1	8	3	6	2	5	7	4
4	7	5	2	9	1	8	6	3
1	8	6	4	3	5	7	9	2
3	9	2	7	8	6	4	5	1

Crossword answers:

ACROSS: 1, Overwhelmed. 9, Valleys. 10, Strap. 11, Top. 13, Reel. 16, To do. 17, Incite. 18, Load. 20, West. 21, Notice. 22, Wash. 23, Thin. 25, Ash. 28, Noah's. 29, Ever not. 30, Onesiphorus.

DOWN: 2, Value. 3, Reed. 4, Host. 5, Lisp. 6, Ear lobe. 7, Overflowing. 8, Opportunity. 12, Obtain. 14, Lid. 15, A cross. 19, Abstain. 20, Wet. 24, Hindu. 25, Asks. 26, Help. 27, Hero.

Pentecost



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)

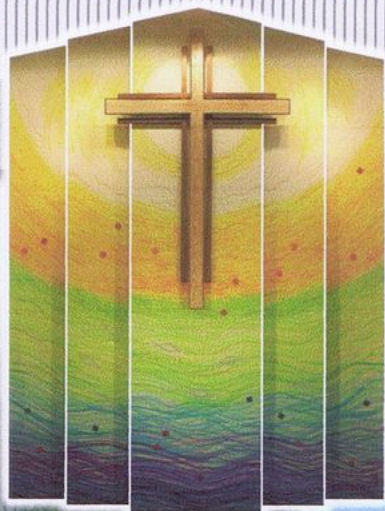


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◆ Trinity Methodist Church ◆



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

...2026...2026...2026

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2 JL

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

www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk