

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*



All are welcome in this place!...

December 2025
and January 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: Mr John Bacon 01562 744502

Mr Donald McPhail 01562 750175

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 February '26 Edition of Trinity Tidings is
Sunday 25th January 2026**

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

The Minister's letter from Verity. Dear friends,

I have just experienced my first cold snap – in Devon, as I was on holiday – with a dusting of snow. Cold is different in Devon; already I find the Midlands air much drier, which makes sense, as it's so much further from the sea.

It's fascinating how much of our Christmas celebrations relate to the cold and the snow, when you think of where Jesus was born. The stable which probably formed one end of a Middle Eastern home offered warmth in a very different climate and culture to our own. The dusting of snow on the desert on our Christmas card this year might be found in the mountains to the East – in Afghanistan, as we know it today, perhaps. It is less likely in lowland plains not far from the Mediterranean. On the rare occasion it does snow in Bethlehem, I imagine it is at least as different as Devon snow compared to Midlands snow; no snowmen flying through the air, no igloos or robins...

I was late booking somewhere to stay for my holiday; over 91% of accommodation was already booked, mostly in the very areas I wanted to be, though nobody knew why. I ended up in a room above a simple pub. I thought a lot about Mary and Joseph at the inn. Sometimes our real needs are less than we imagine. A clean comfortable bed, privacy, water on tap, a kettle ... the fridge and TV seemed luxurious! I took only a few clothes (and a hot water bottle!), leaving all my homely clutter behind. What gave my holiday meaning was not the room I slept in, but space, mental and physical, and the friendship of the people I met up with.

Did God choose to enter the world the way he did, because the stable was all he needed, and he was more interested in mixing with people?

Among all the fripperies and complexities of this season of the year, it may help to take stock; what do I, or we, actually need? What is the balance between gathering and enjoying things, and spending time with people? Is this what is needed? Will there be space for Christ in our 'mas'?

Every Christmas, I love to spend an hour as darkness falls with a lit candle, song, and prayer, remembering everyone who is missing someone special to them this year; someone who has died, or is in hospital, or far away. I will also pray for those who are alone for reasons other than choice. It's a very special uninterrupted hour. For me, this is when I become aware of Christ's presence.

May you find Christ close in whatever space you make; in the way you exchange presents, in the singing, the decorations, the feasting, the people, the walks, the games, the TV ... for each of us the space made for Christ to come near will be different. I pray that such spaces may be made, not only here, but in all the trouble spots of the world, and wherever people are hurting, isolated, or afraid.

We don't need a lot. The climate of our lives may well vary. To transform the cold and dark of our climate and, sometimes, of our culture, into a celebration of hope, there may be a wisdom in making space for the gift of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. I hope you have a very happy Christmas!

... and then we start 2026, with a Covenant, giving us the opportunity to respond to the gift of Jesus with the gift to God of our own lives. Sometimes we may feel this is a poor exchange - what do we have to offer. British society is not the best at giving accolades, and perhaps the whole concept of public acknowledgement makes us cringe. Times like Advent, the New Year, and Lent, have us questioning ourselves, and making promises of abstinence or of 'doing better'. This is great when the rest of the year is spent rejoicing in the qualities we see in one another, but my impression is that we don't really engage in such a balance.

As we continue to explore who and where and whose we are as God's people in this place at this time, I wonder whether we could find opportunities to whisper in the ears of those whose gifts are less often in the limelight, just how much we appreciate what they do or who they are. When someone 'oozes' Christ, could we let them know the goodness of the impact that has?

Please look out for more information about EXPLORE in January; I look forward to making maps with you of your locality, to identifying what's special about the people of this area, and to pondering what kind of God we serve, and where Christ might be found in such a place and time as this. Hopefully, there will also be at least one meeting in late January at which we can learn of the many opportunities, resources, and support which exist to help us in our mission today.

Then, in February, we can start putting this all together, to express the kind of churches we are, and hope to be, as the space for Christ grows not only in our hearts, but all around us.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas, a joyful New Year, and a 2026 full of goodness and wisdom. Verity

PRAYER CORNER

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



During the month of December, please remember and pray for the area of Kidderminster known as Franche.

<u>Franch</u>	<u>December</u>
St Barnabas' Church	
Franch Community Church and its Food Bank.	
Kidderminster Baptist Church	
Franch and St Catherines' Primary Schools and Nurseries	
Mayfield, Deerhurst and Barnabees Nurseries	
Old Carolians Rugby Club	
Residential housing	
Retail	
Rosedene Specialist Residential Home	
The Talking Newspaper	

May our prayer this Christmas be the song of the angels to the shepherds:

"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace to all on whom his favour rests."

From the Editor.....

One thing I enjoy doing at Christmas is dressing up in a red suit and pretending to be Father Christmas. When I was working we always had a Christmas party for the school, each class did their own thing, and often two classes would join together. There was always a present for each child, funding by the Parent Teacher Association. Margaret and I used to go to a large toy warehouse in Birmingham and buy the toys, for boys and girls of all the ages. I always thought that it was one of my more pleasant official duties!

We always built a lovely grotto for Father Christmas, it was amazing what teaching assistants could do. One Christmas as the older children, 10 or 11 year olds, were lining up to see Father Christmas one boy said 'It's only the caretaker dressed up' He was such a grumpy person that it the last thing he would ever do!

The someone else said 'It's Michael.' Now Michael was the vicar from the church next door, but although we were not a Church school he was a very good friend to the school, and to me personally. I said to the boy 'If it's Michael then who is standing behind you?' of course it was Michael himself. The person doing the part as Father Christmas was actually my Dad, and he loved doing it. So I said, 'You are both wrong, because this is the real Santa, it's the one that came to me when I was a little boy.' That left them trying to work out what I meant. Incidentally my father would have made a very good teacher in a secondary school, he had a wonderful way with teenagers. But as he was the eldest of four children, at fourteen he had to go to work, and was apprenticed to a blacksmith in Ironbridge, before moving to Smethwick and working at Austin Motor works, Longbridge.

It is lovely to have memories, and especially at Christmas when I remember the fun we had as a family, and how our three sons teased my mother outrageously, but she gave as good as she got!

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year of hope, peace and joy.

David



OFFERTORIES FOR THE FOUR WEEKS TO 16th NOVEMBER ARE AS FOLLOWS

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
26.10.25 & 02.11.25	364.00	240.00	1588.80	2192.80
09.11.25 & 16.11.25	280.00	340.00	1469.60	2089.60

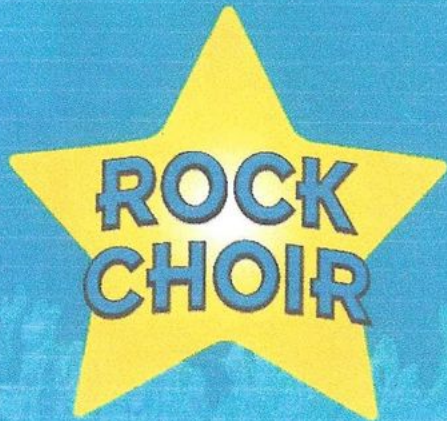
This is a weekly average of £1070.60

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 DECEMBER & JANUARY

Dec 7 th	10.30am	Mr David Skitt -- Toy Service
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips
Dec 14 th	10.30am	Mr Albert Wilkinson
	4.00pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Christingle service
Dec 21 st	10.30am	Deacon Becky Lovatt
	4.00pm	Rev Novette Headley -- Carol service
Dec 28 th	10.30am	Rev Verity Phillips
	No Evening Service	
Jan 4 th	10.30am	Rev Novette Headley -- Covenant Service
	No Evening Service	
Jan 11 th	10.30am	Mr Mike Dernie
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Café Worship
Jan 18 th	10.30am	Mrs Sue Stinton
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
Jan 25 th	10.30am	Mr David Skitt
	6.30pm	Deacon Becky Lovatt
Feb 1 st	10.30am	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Mr Mike Dernie





ROCK CHOIR
KIDDERMINSTER and
STOURBRIDGE

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT
TRINITY CHURCH**

16th DEC 2025 | 7pm
Trinity Methodist Church
Churchfields, Kidderminster DY10 2LJ

Come and join us for
CHRISTMAS SONGS
By the **ROCK CHOIR**
December 16th 7.00pm
Admission by donation.

Christmas Services 2025

Sunday 7th December 2025

10:30am

Toy Service

Led by Mr. David Skitt
Collecting 'NEW' toys on behalf
of Birmingham Women's Hospital -
for ages 0-3 years

6:30pm

Evening Service

Led by Rev'd. Verity Phillips

Sunday 14th December 2025

10:30am

Morning Service

Led by Mr. Albert Wilkinson

4pm

Christingle Service

Led by Rev'd. Verity Phillips

Sunday 21st December 2025

10:30am

Morning Service

Led by Deacon Becky Lovatt

4pm

A Service of Christmas Carols

Led by Rev'd. Novette Headley

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December 2025

11:30pm

Midnight Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev'd. Verity Phillips

Christmas Day

Thursday 25th December 2025

10am

Christmas Family Service

Led by Rev'd. Verity Phillips

Sunday 28th December 2025

10:30am

Morning Service

Led by Rev'd. Verity Phillips

No Evening Service at Trinity

Sunday 4th January 2026

10:30am

Annual Covenant Service

with Holy Communion

Led by Rev'd. Novette Headley

No Evening Service at Trinity

Commitment for Life

In appreciation of

Baxter URC

for the generous donation of £2,308.00
towards

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Commitment for Life is the global justice programme of the United Reformed Church
working in partnership with Christian Aid and Global Justice Now.

Signed: _____

[Signature]

Date: 22-7-2025



www.urc.org.uk/cfl

A Christmas Miscellany Quiz

Who wrote the words of these Christmas Carols, songs or poems?

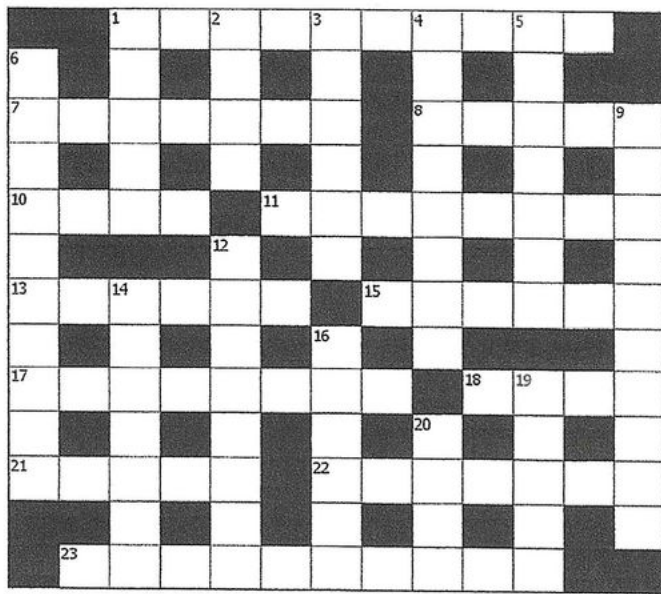
1. Come and join the celebration
2. Silent Night
3. In the bleak midwinter
4. Cradled in a manger meanly
5. Hark the herald angels sing
6. While shepherds watched their flocks
7. See amid the winter's snow
8. O come, all ye faithful
9. Away in a manger
10. Once in royal David's city
11. I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
12. Rudolf the red nosed reindeer
13. Little donkey, little donkey
14. 'Twas the night before Christmas
15. Ring out wild bells

Who starred in these Christmas films?

16. It's a wonderful life
17. Miracle on 34th Street (Two films made either star will do)
18. Who wrote: The Snowman)
19. Who starred in: The Polar express
20. What would you be watching if the audience said 'He's behind you!' and the character said 'Oh no he isn't!' and the audience replied 'Oh yes he is!'



Parish Pump Crossword



Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)

Sudoku puzzle (medium)

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



QUIZ

Join us for a fun evening

QUIZ NIGHT

Enjoy a fish & chip supper while testing your knowledge.

Saturday 7th
February
5pm

Book with Sarah Andrews
£10

Bring your own non-alcoholic drinks

Teddy Trafficking

Teddies for tragedies, all in a row.
Teddies for tragedies, ready to go.
Teddies for tragedies, airport bound
To children in need, all the world round.

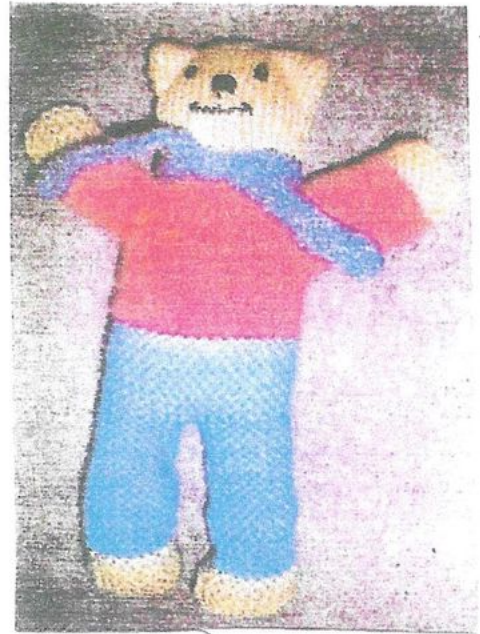
In boxes or bags, in rucksack or case,
Couriers take them all over the place.
Wherever they're needed to bring a child joy,
A Teddy's for loving - it's not just a toy.

A standard pattern is what is perceived,
But every Teddy is unique indeed.
In various colours and sizes they go,
Winging their way to a child who is low.

Our knitters and baggers are all unique too,
Who design Teddies and bags in every hue.
They make them look smart and cheerful and bright;
It's the smile on their faces that gives most delight!

Teddy lives in a bag where he sleeps safe and sound,
Not like the children who lie on the ground.
With a scarf round his neck, secured at the back,
He joins other treasures in his private sack.

So trafficking Teddies is what we do,
It's why we need the likes of you
To find the outlets, the children in need,
Where a Teddy to love will be well received.



PKD May 2006

Peter Doncaster.

An extract from 'A Christmas Carol. This is from the end of the book, when Scrooge, a changed man, is early at his office on Boxing Day.

But he was early at the office next morning. Oh he was early there! If he could only be there first, and catch Bob Cratchit coming in late! That was the thing he had set his heart upon.

And he did it; yes he did! The clock struck nine. No Bob. A quarter past. But he was early at the office next morning. Oh, he was early there! If only No Bob. He was a full eighteen and a half minutes behind his time. Scrooge sat with his door wide open, that he might see him come into the Tank.

His hat was off before he opened the door; his comforter too. He was on his stool in a jiffy, driving away with his pen as if he were trying to overtake nine o'clock.

'Hallo!' growled Scrooge in his accustomed voice, as near as he could feign it. 'What do you mean by coming here at this time of day?'

'I am very sorry, sir' said Bob 'I am behind my time'

'You are?' repeated Scrooge. 'Yes, I think you are. Step this way, if you please.'

'It's only once a year, sir,' pleaded Bob, appearing from the Tank. 'It shall not be repeated. I was making rather merry yesterday, sir.'

'Now, I'll tell you what, my friend,' said Scrooge, 'I am not going to stand for this sort of thing any longer. And therefore,' he continued, leaping from his stool, and giving Bob such a dig in the waistcoat that he staggered back into the Tank again – 'and therefore I am about to raise your salary!'

Bob trembled and got a little nearer to the ruler. He had a momentary idea of knocking Scrooge down with it, holding him, and calling to the people in the street for help and a strait jacket.

'A merry Christmas, Bob!' said Scrooge with an earnestness that could not be mistaken, as he clapped him on the back. 'A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have given you for many a year! I'll raise your salary, and endeavour to assist your struggling family. We'll discuss your affairs this afternoon Bob! Make up the fires, and buy a new coal scuttle before you dot another i, Bob Cratchit.'

Scrooge was as good as his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he became a second father. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh and little heeded them. His own heart laughed, and that was enough for him.

It was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well. May that be said of all of us! And as Tiny Tim observed, God Bless Us Everyone!



GARDENING NOTES FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

December is the first month of winter and 21st is the day when the sun is 'way down south', seeming to appear stationary over the Tropic of Capricorn, the hours of daylight at their shortest over the northern hemisphere.

Jobs in the garden will have to be undertaken as and when the weather allows - both time and daylight will be limited. If nothing else, try to keep the garden tidy and prepare the ground for the coming season.

If not already done, it is not too late to lightly trim long shoots of roses to prevent 'wind rock' during the winter. However, if the weather is frosty or cold leave well alone and don't cut back too hard as this could lead to soft, sappy growth during mild spells which will only be killed by frosts. Don't compost shoots that have blackspot - burn it!

Where soil has become compacted, or you've recently walked over it, use a spade or fork to gently chip or break up the upper layers, allowing frost action to get to work. Don't dig too deeply; this will take tool-to-cold soil down deeper into the bed. Limited planting is still possible where the weather allows, but only if soil conditions are favourable. Don't plant if it's frozen or waterlogged. Deciduous hedging should be planted as soon as possible.

Keep a check on forced bulbs for Christmas flowering, as they should be nearing the point where they will need moving into a cool and well-lit position. Frost can loosen the soil around recently planted shrubs and trees, so periodically check for 'lifted' plants and re-firm where necessary. 'Wind rock' can also loosen plants, so check for this at the same time.

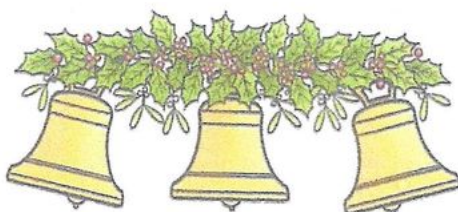
For early-winter colour you can do no better than the charming hardy cyclamen *coum*. Often in flower just before Christmas, *C. coum* is very hardy and, I believe, should be established in every garden or a small alpine trough. Flowers can be white, delicate shell pink, beautiful rose or deep magenta, the glossy dark-green to patterned silver, kidney-shaped foliage only adds to its charm!

A carpet of *C. coum* around the base of a mature tree in the darkest days of the winter can really lift the heart. The soil should be well drained and the site slightly shaded during the summer, remaining moist during autumn through to spring. Top dress the site with leaf mould and grit, and be sparing with the fertiliser, and they will reward you with a truly spectacular carpet of colour. One note of caution, hardy cyclamen are generally dormant during the summer, so remember where you planted them and don't hoe them out! Leaving the site undisturbed will see the carpet of colour increasing in size year by year, with young seedlings appearing which should be left to mature in situ!

It may be cold outside, the ground frozen solid with frost or unworkable, but the shortest day is at hand, it can only get lighter from the 21st onwards, the new gardening year starts soon!

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Whatever you're doing, enjoy your garden - it's the only one you've got!

Bob



It's Christmas

Christmas is coming the goose is getting fat. So goes the old nursery rhyme that all young children adored but probably in the world today, long forgotten. And as for putting a penny in the old man's hat? Well, it seems there are two kinds of Christmas, one for the modern-day world and one for the people who believe that Christ was born on Christmas Day and lives among us. Christmas should be a religious time but it isn't. The reality is that people go over the top. The streets and shops are full. People over-indulge. Most people assume that Christmas is a time for food, presents and booze. There is a tendency to overspend, buying gifts that people do not need with money they haven't got. While some go mad, others go under. Suicides go up marriages fall apart, people get depression and family break-ups begin. Everything goes crackers – well what do you expect, it's Christmas. With all this magic are we missing the point? Too often Jesus has been put on the back burner for Christmas.

The point of Christmas is Jesus Christ, to celebrate the birth of probably the greatest man who has ever lived. This is when A.D. started. Sadly Jesus has been obscured by Christmas. Our faith has been based on the birth of the baby Jesus. From His birth He went on to live a selfless life. The words that to come from His lips were the purest and best. In the words of Russian writer Dostoevsky say it all “I believe there is no one lovelier, deeper, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus. I say to myself, with jealous love, that not only is there no-one else like Him but there could never be anyone like Him”. That's what Christmas is, the birth of the Saviour. In fact, His actual birth was missed by many. While people in the inn were eating and drinking, next door, in a manger, Jesus was being born, the only witnesses were Mary & Joseph. The first people to see Jesus were the humble shepherds. These were followed by the Magi bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, gifts fit for a king, no bath salts for the baby. It is significant that the next people to see and hold the baby Jesus were two older people, Simeon and Anna when baby Jesus was taken to the temple, as was the tradition for babies. The poor and the old were the first people to appreciate Jesus. This was the beginning; Christ was born and will be among us forever. Sadly not a lot of people know that and Christmas is just another excuse for a booze-up.

Forget the birth, it's the one and only Noddy Holder, from Slade, who seems to announce this wonderful festive season with a cry “It's Christmas”, pity he didn't follow this by singing “Mary's Boy Child”. No, this is Christmas today. To believe that Christmas starts with a John Lewis advert and Kevin the carrot is true with many people. Even dear old Santa dressed in red and white comes from a Coca-Cola advert in the 1930's. Ready, Steady, Go, it's Christmas. Don't ever forget the meaning. John Betjeman got it right in his poem:

*“And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A baby in an ox's stall?
The maker of the stars and sea
Became a child, on Earth, for me?”*

*No love that in a family dwells
No carolling in frosty air
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single truth compare;
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in bread and wine.”*

Remember Christ is not just for Christmas. He is there for the rest of your life. No room at the inn, forced out by Herod, but He lived. Let us all be the people He wanted us to be. ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ All the world should embrace Jesus at Christmas and for every day onwards.

Mike

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

The Dusty Road

“The road is long with many a winding turn”. So goes the Hollies song ‘He ain’t heavy, he’s my brother’. Yes, and so it was for Jesus on His journey to Egypt. But first of all a trip to Bethlehem for Mary and Joseph. They had to heed a census call, as everyone in the country did. Mary was heavily pregnant so would have made the trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. Donkeys had been used for years, both for riding and as pack animals. If a couple had one Donkey the man usually walked alongside while the lady rode. And so the couple made their way to Bethlehem along the dusty road. No room at the inn but Joseph and Mary found a dwelling, then it was simply “Call the midwife”.

The Gospels give no account of the route followed by Joseph & Mary on their journey from Nazareth. It’s possible they joined a caravan along with others, all on their way to heed the census call. This would provide safety in numbers, saving them from attacks by vagabonds and such. However it’s a long journey over rough terrain. There were two possible routes at the time, the short one went through the Judean hills and crossed the border with Samaria. This would have been hard going. A longer route would have crossed the Jordan River and joined with a major Roman road taking them along the flat Jordan Valley then back over the river taking them straight to Bethlehem.

Historians are undecided on which route the couple would have taken. Jewish relationships with the Samaritans were strained, so taking the longer road would have been safer and the easier option. This was easier for Mary because the Bible doesn’t say she rode the donkey. If it’s likely she walked in her condition she would only have covered 10 miles a day, taking around 10 days to do the trip. Just imagine, in a traffic free world, could you walk from Kidderminster to Bristol down the M5? This is perfectly flat.

Some people think they may have taken the shorter route to get there more quickly, but tougher, the equivalent of our imaginary walk to Bristol, but taking in the Worcestershire way and the Malvern Hills – try it! Anyhow, Joseph and Mary did get to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus, the rest they say is history. An easy life now? No, they had to travel again a 50-mile flight into Egypt with the babe Jesus in arms. Herod had declared all babies must die. Again, they travelled on a donkey. A camel or a Horse would have been quicker, but these were animals connected with war and so would have been declined. Here they remained until an all clear was given and it was safe to return to their home in Nazareth. They had endured another long journey, some 120 miles. An Angel had appeared to Joseph in Egypt and told him to take Jesus back to Israel for those who wanted to take his life were dead. A remarkable early life-start for Baby Jesus. Then Jesus seemed to disappear. He turns up 12 years later in a temple in Jerusalem. What happened? He was probably recovering from Donkey-lag.

Mike



Mike's Smile Lines – It's Pantomime Time

Dame: I made myself a dress from a Union Jack

Man: Is it comfortable?

Dame: It is now I've taken the flagpole out.

**

Man: May I kiss your hand?

Dame: Why, is my face dirty?

**

Dame: Every time I'm down in the dumps I get myself a new hat.

Man: I wondered where you got them.

**

Dame: I've worked my fingers to the bone for you and what have I got to show for it?

Idle Jack: Boney fingers.

**

Man: You should sprinkle yourself with toilet water.

Dame: I tried that and he seat fell on my head.

**

Dame: I hate you, I hate you, I hate you.

Man: Yes, and 3 hates are 24.

**

Widow

Twankey: Somebody has pinched all my washing off the line, I'd call them a pair of thieves.

Wishey

Washey: I'd call them a pair of knickers.

**

Dame: My cooking is Cordon Bleu.

Jack: What I've tasted it should be cordoned off.

**

Dame: I went for a sauna the other day. I went in this room, full of steam and white tiles. I took off my clothes and lay down in the middle of the floor. When the steam cleared I found myself in a fish and chip shop.

**

1st Ugly .

Sister: We're both very fastidious

2nd Ugly .

Sister: Yes, I'm fast and she;s hideous

**

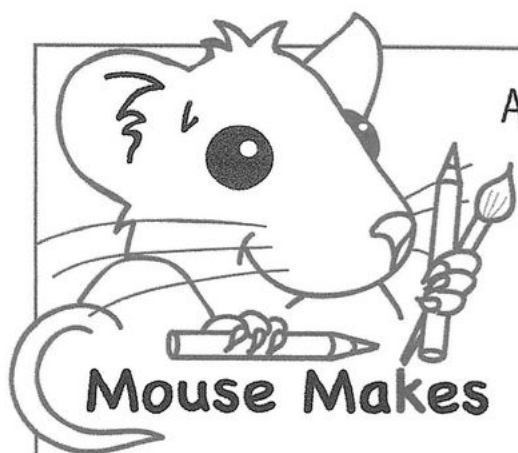
1st Ugly

Sister: (trying on a slipper) I can't get my foot in it.

2nd Ugly

Sister: You couldn't get your foot in Stourport Wesley Church.





At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
God's Son and our Saviour
coming into the world as a baby,
and we look forward to the time
when Jesus will come again,
not as a baby but as the
King of kings and Lord of lords!

read
John 14:3

A baby needs clothes
to keep warm like
a snugly sleep suit
or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?
Jesus was wrapped in

.....
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere
to be born like at home
or in a hospital.

Where were you born?
Jesus was born
in a stable in

.....
read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs
somewhere
to sleep like
a crib or a cot.
*What did you
sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a

.....
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs
a name.

*What name were
you called?*

Jesus was given
a special name
that had a
special meaning.

read
Matthew 1:21-23

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

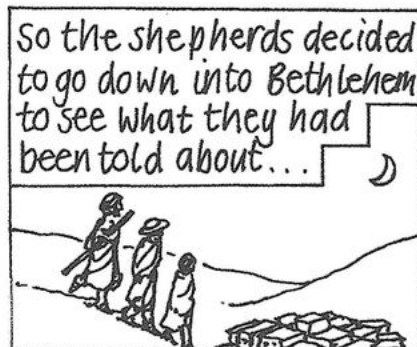
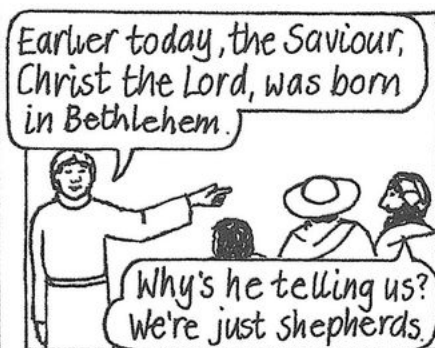
NADOLIG LLAWEN ☆ NOLLAIG CHRÌDHEIL ☆ NOLLAG SHONA
JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20

Shepherds were paid to look after the flocks
out on the hillside. Uneducated and rough,
they were usually avoided, or overlooked.



How Father Christmas got where he is today

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his lifework of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get around all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

Parish Pump 2025

The story of mince pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape – cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

Parish Pump 2025

World's oldest fake tree

Did you know that it is a family in Wiltshire, the Parkers, who claim to own the world's oldest artificial Christmas tree? It was bought in 1886, and it is still put up every year.

Parish Pump 2025

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the Christmas story.

Christmas Unwrapped

All of us have received unwanted gifts at Christmas. For Joseph the gift of a child, as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, was not something he really wanted. Although he was engaged to Mary, her pregnancy would be grounds for divorce. Not surprisingly, with the associated social disgrace, Joseph wanted to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). However, God intervened in a dream: '*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means, God with us.*' (1:23). In a scary and uncertain world, what does the message of *Immanuel* say to us today?

God is present with us

God assured Joseph that He was working in all that Joseph was going through. The eternal and creator God entered time and space as a baby. This baby is both uniquely divine but also fully human. This means that we can know God personally, not just know about Him. The Holy Spirit is committed to making Jesus' life and character real in us, and bringing meaning to our circumstances, just as He worked in Mary's life.

God is on our side

Christmas touches some raw nerves in our lives, including stress, family rows, loneliness and financial pressures. However, God does not remain aloof from our experiences. In Jesus He enters our world of hopes and fears, joys and disappointments. He understands what we are going through, as He is alongside us. By the cross and resurrection, He gave His life that we might know His love, joy, peace and forgiveness.

For Joseph, as well as us, the Christmas message is one of hope in an uncertain world. It is a time to re-consider the claims of *Immanuel* ('*God with us*') as we entrust ourselves to Him for the coming year.

Parish Pump 2025

How to care for your real Christmas tree

If you want your tree to last as long as possible this year, the following should help: Cut off about half an inch from the bottom of the trunk. This opens the pores of the tree. Then place it outside in a cool shaded place, standing in water until required.

Once you have brought it in, place it in a water-holding stand, well away from direct heat such as radiators. Top up the container every day – you will be amazed how much water the tree drinks. These ideas come from the British Christmas Tree Growers Association (BCTGA)

Parish Pump 2025

Safe driving this winter

The temperatures are dropping now, and it is a good idea to nurture your car battery. Cold, damp weather can make it as reluctant as you are to get going in the morning.

The RAC recommends the following to take best care of your battery: Before you switch off your engine at the end of a journey, turn off the lights, wipers and heaters. This prevents any unnecessary drain on the battery next time you start the car.

Check that everything is switched off before you turn on the ignition. Avoid using the heater longer than necessary, as it puts high demands on the vehicle's battery.

Check that you don't leave interior lights, satnavs or phone chargers connected.

If possible, park in a garage.

Parish Pump 2025

All in the month of December

It was:

250 years ago, on 16th Dec 1775 that Jane Austen, novelist (*Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Persuasion*) was born. Over 30 million copies of her books have been sold, 7,000 of them in her lifetime.

175 years ago, on 4th Dec 1850 that William Sturgeon, physicist, electrical engineer and inventor died. He created the first electromagnets and invented the first British electric motor.

70 years ago, on 20th Dec 1955 that Cardiff was proclaimed the capital city of Wales. 65 years ago, on 9th Dec 1960 that the first episode of the TV soap *Coronation Street* was broadcast on ITV.

60 years ago, on 22nd Dec 1965 that Richard Dimbleby, journalist and radio-television broadcaster, died. The BBC's first war correspondent, he was one of the greatest figures in British broadcasting history. Father of the TV presenters David Dimbleby and Jonathan Dimbleby.

40 years ago, on 2nd Dec 1985 that Philip Larkin, poet, librarian and jazz critic died.

30 years ago, on 22nd Dec 1995 that the British 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was jailed for six and a half years in Singapore for fraudulent financial dealings which had led to the fall of Barings Bank.

Also 30 years ago, on 21st Dec 1995 that the city of Bethlehem passed from Israeli to Palestinian control. On 26th Dec Israel also passed dozens of West Bank villages over to the Palestinian authority.

10 years ago, on 19th Dec 2015 that Jimmy Hill, football player, manager and host of the BBC football TV series *Match of the Day* (1973-88) died.

Parish Pump 2025

Parish Pump Smile Lines

The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from 'house' to 'house' knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them.

As they continued to get 'no room' answers, a little voice called from the back of the church: "You should have booked!"

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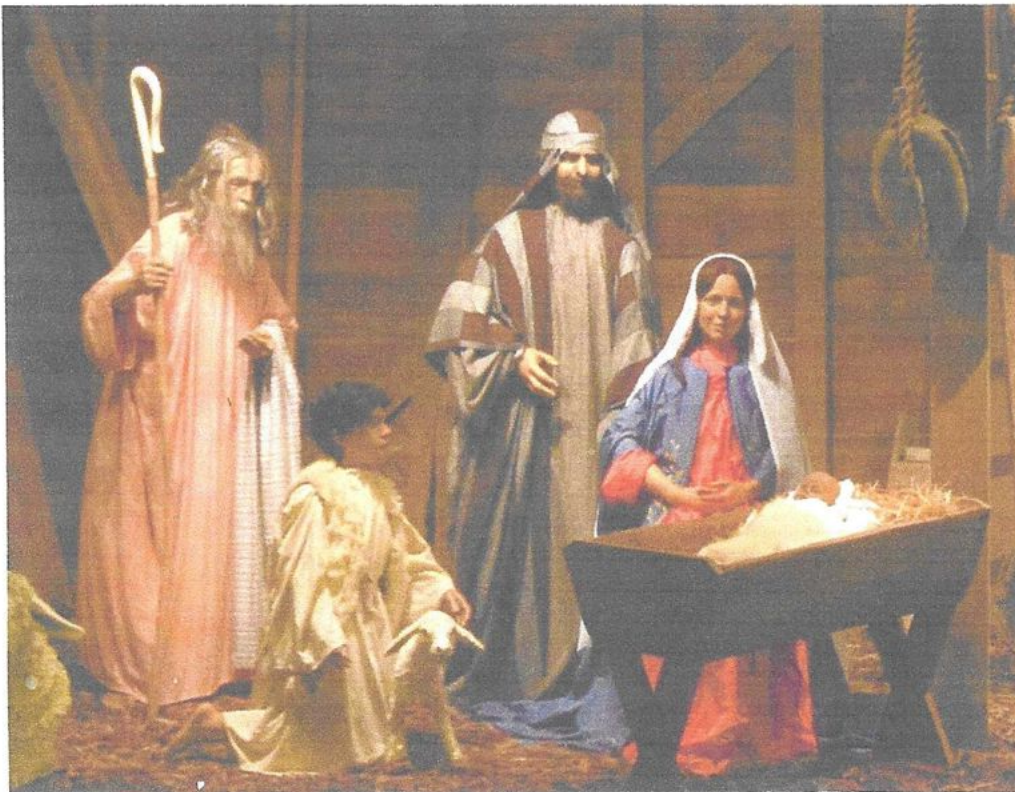
A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

**

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures to illustrate a biblical story. The teacher was startled to see one little boy was drawing an airplane. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy explained. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the figure in the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."

With New Year's Resolutions in mind, here is a reminder of John Wesley's rule of conduct:

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.



QUIZ ANSWERS

Christmas Miscellany Quiz Answers

1. Valerie Collison
2. Joseph Mohr
3. Christina Georgina Rossetti
4. George Stringer Rowe
5. Charles Wesley
6. Nahum Tate
7. Edward Caswall
8. Possibly by John Francis Wade and others
9. Anonymous
10. Cecil Frances Alexander
11. Irving Berlin
12. Robert L May
13. Eric Boswell
14. Clement Clarke Moore
15. Alfred Tennyson
16. James Stewart
17. Edmund Gwenn (1947), Richard Attenborough (1994)
18. Raymond Briggs
19. Tom Hanks
20. A Pantomime!

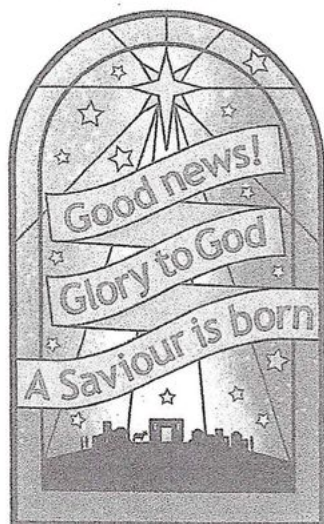
Sudoku puzzle solution

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

Crossword answers

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.



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):

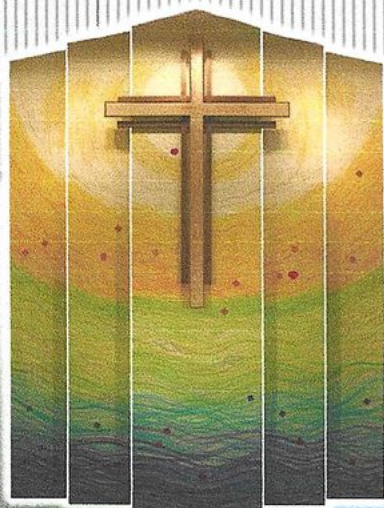
Cheesecake Bakewell Tart Sponge Pudding

Fruit Crumble Sticky Toffee

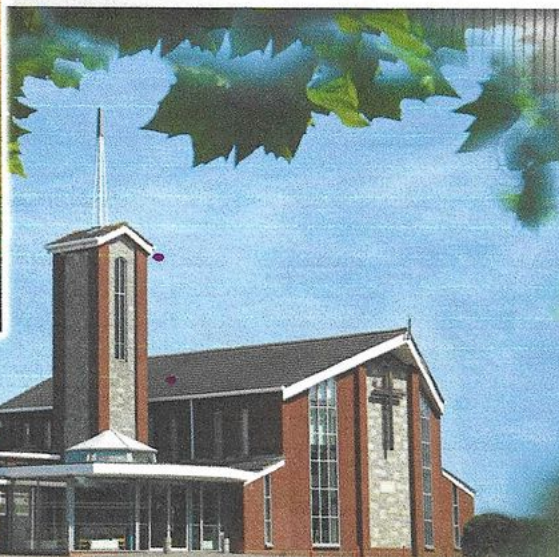
Passion Pudding Bread & Butter Pudding

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





♦ 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 **(NEW TIME!)**

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

2025...2025 & 2026