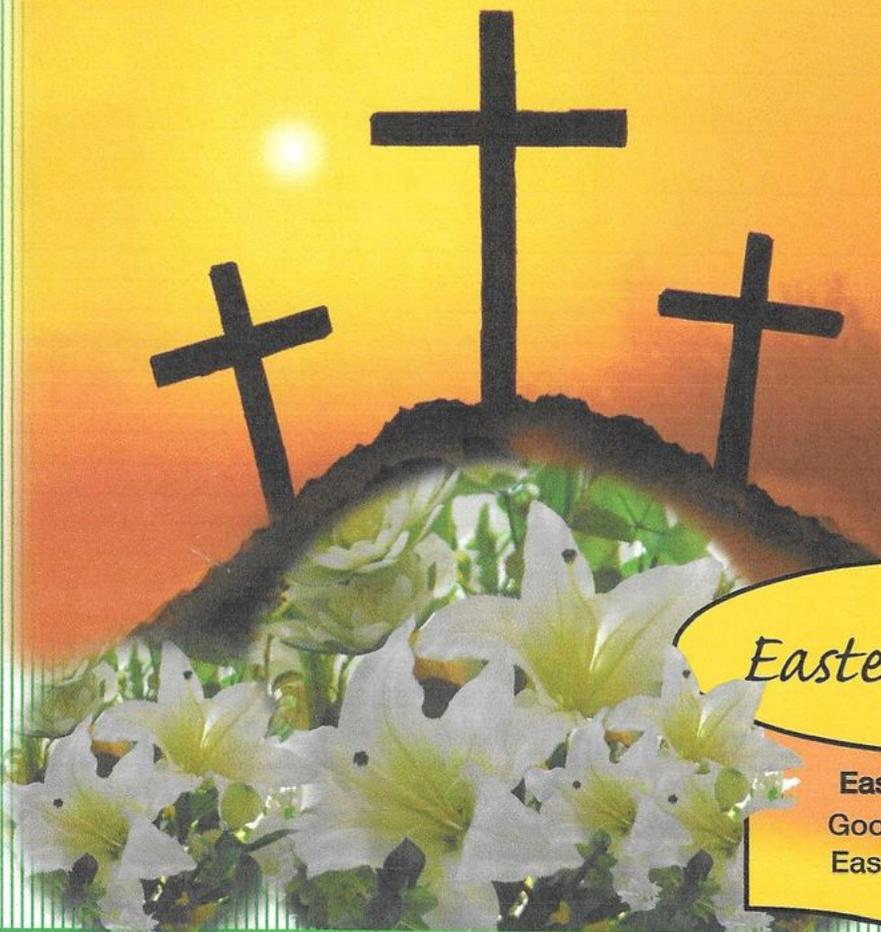


♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*

March 2026



Easter Edition 1

Easter Dates 2026
Good Friday 3rd April
Easter Day -
Sunday 5th April

All are welcome in this place!

**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

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Trinity Tidings Editorial Team:

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The closing date for items for the April '26 Edition of Trinity Tidings is
Sunday 22nd March 2026

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

The Letter from Verity

Thank you to all who contributed to the Trinity Questionnaire, Church Explore meetings, and Explore maps. Each church should now have a summary of the findings so far, which their Church Councils will be starting to consider with a view to developing a strategy for the future. Some people from each Church will have attended the Mission Meeting on 28th February, and seen what is possible, and even funded. During Lent and Easter, I would invite you to pray deeply, and to dream dreams, or be open to visions.

Over the years, the congregations of many churches in Methodism have become both older and smaller. How are we to make sense of this? We know that the world has become more secular, but the census tells us that about 50% of the population still call themselves Christian, even though only about 4% actually attend Church most Sundays (slightly more over the course of a year). Are these all people of a certain age? Is Christianity on its way out? As with any illness, it's all too easy to diagnose catastrophe on the basis of symptoms which could have many different causes. It's not just that sport has taken over the Sunday morning slot!

I once had a church in a rural village where everyone was related. Making some enquiries, I found the grandparents (in their nineties) had held office since they were in their forties, so their children (in their fifties) had never had the opportunity of knowing any other leadership. They had ideas, but didn't dare speak of them any more. When the elders of the Church were growing up they'd seen frequent changes of leadership, and fresh ideas. The next generation needed the opportunity to make mistakes while they still had older people there to support them, pick them up, dust them down, dry their tears, and set them off again. This was nobody's fault, it was simply that people got stuck in their role due to having smaller families and living longer, healthier lives; good things – (apart, perhaps, from the stuckness).

I often say that I'm an old woman now. When I was growing up, people my age would be retired. Now we have to work longer because we didn't have enough children to do the work which would keep our pensions strong (which seemed wise when we were young and struggling to find work as baby-boomers). The world is vastly different from the one I was sure would prevail (because I was told it would).

The time and place we find ourselves in matters, not because of any need to judge our past or present, but to notice that this is the ground on which we build for the future, and to recognise what we might need to change in order to build a stronger – or more flexible – structure for the future.

Where are we going as a people of God? There are pressures in various directions, and this can be very unsettling. But God doesn't change, and he knows past, present, *and* future. If we can focus on God, all the rest will come together. I ask myself repeatedly, "Where would Jesus be? What would he do?"

Where would Jesus be in your community? What would he be doing? Would it be different to us, or alongside us? How might the Church join in alongside Jesus? Would Jesus ask us to do anything in a different way, or with different words? Is there anything he'd suggest we could do without?

These are good questions for us to ask during Lent and Easter.

On 18th April we come together as a whole Circuit, to share where we are, and what paths we hope to follow Christ down. I hope we will be able to think about how we could help each other, and how by working together we can provide all that we maybe struggle to do on our own.

We'll then have Church Councils to check everyone else is on board, before finalising any decisions at Circuit Meeting on 11th May.

I used to speak of how the church is changing as a pruning of the roses – a good gardener will prune roses right back to almost nothing to encourage more growth and more beautiful blooms next year. I honestly believe that at last, towards the end of my ministry, God is beginning to apply fertiliser to the roses he has cut back. If we could not only continue to hold faith, but even deepen in faith, I earnestly believe we might begin to see growth again. If we can encourage the next generation of Christians, few as they may be, to have visions while we pray and dream. We need to keep things running, of course. That's not easy as we age, and we may need to find the funds to pay someone to do things for us as our younger

members cannot possibly do everything. I hope that where the next generation are called, we can help them to be set free to respond! (and pick them up when they fall, and have tissues and treats ready!).

At times, we may feel knocked back, but actually these are exciting times.

The Circuit took a decision two or three years ago to seek a deacon for mission and service in the Stourport end of the Circuit. This brave decision was based on using the capital raised from selling buildings, not on an assessment. Becky is helping all sorts of people to draw nearer to Christ. Her stories of personal and numerical growth are really encouraging, and the members at Wesley have responded with great grace as they learn how to be changed by God's preference for those at the edge of what our society finds comfortable. This cannot be sustained long term by using capital. What would Jesus do?

I hope Becky might share some of her stories in the April letter, and that CLT will have further explored what options are available to us by 18th April.

In the meantime, let us watch and pray with Jesus Christ our Saviour, trust in the God who raises the dead to life anew, and welcome the prompting and visions of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Verity

EASTER CARDS

The congregation will have the opportunity to purchase Easter cards, and other cards at Church, in the Foyer on the following Sundays:

March 8th, March 15th, March 22nd

Regrettably only purchases by cash, so please remember to bring some to Church with you!

A donation from sales will be made to

Church Funds

Diane Ferris

Trinity Explore – Final Summary

WHO WE ARE:

What is most valued about Trinity Church

The community of friendship, fellowship, warmth, care, welcome, inclusion, and belonging,
The shared faith and varied worship; which echo these values
The convenience.

What Trinity values most about its faith

It is the ground of our life and being; we know God's presence in Jesus, who saves us.
The love of God for All, which can challenge us to see ourselves and others as God does.
Its relevance to daily life as we are guided by the trustworthy teaching and example of Christ.
The strength, comfort, encouragement and hope we find through the peace we experience.

What Trinity is pleased about

The warmth of welcome offered, its care, acceptance, accessibility, and support for everyone
The friendship, the sense of family, and the standard and variety of worship offered.
The number and range of community groups and the way they are welcomed and integrated.

What Trinity is concerned about

The age profile and lack of younger people; how we are not family friendly in how we work
The reducing congregation and potential financial difficulties in the future
The lack of diversity in the congregation and leadership, and lack of variety in the worship

What Trinity worship is like

All are welcome and can relax and join in or not as they please. The focus is compassionate.
We sing, talk with God, listen to the Bible, and hear an explanation of the Bible reading
It's a time of quiet reflection, a thinking time which includes joy and may also challenge us.
It's traditional, depending on the preacher on the day, and neither formal nor 'happy clappy'.
Mostly, we'd be happy to bring a friend, but with some reservations about the style of worship
We enjoy rousing well-known hymnody from a range of sources; tuneful with meaningful words .
Some of us struggle to understand or relate to repetitious worship.

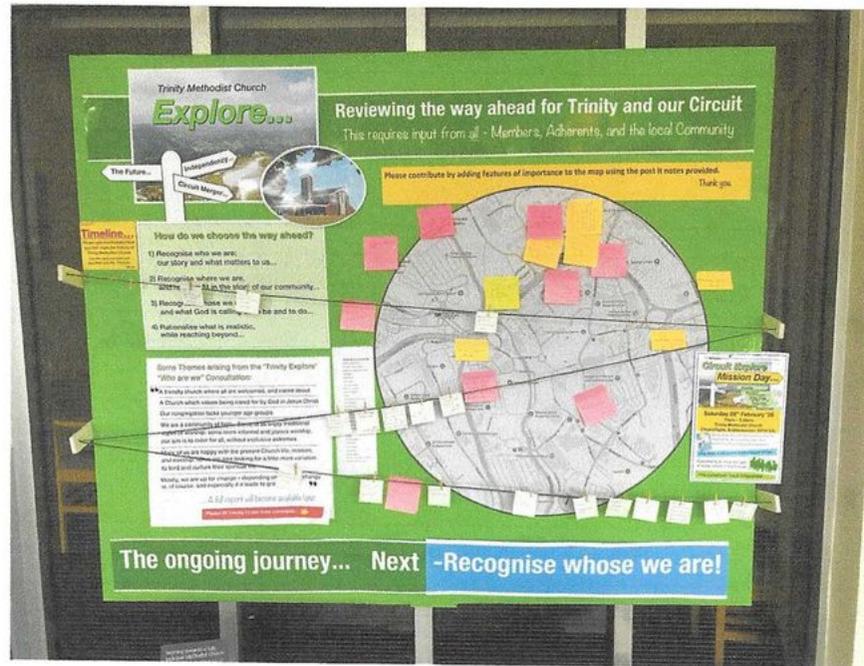
What gifts are evident (or hidden) at Trinity?

We are best at Friendship, caring, listening, Giving, Praying, Reading, and Helping. We are also good at Working with children, Music (Singing and Instruments), Baking, Gardening, Fundraising, and the Arts. Some of us can drive, do administration, lead worship, sew, knit, teach, do DIY and clean. A handful have an interest in history, organising, finance, computer technology, and leading prayers. Dance, Drama, Fitness, supporting others, radio broadcasts, running quizzes, folk music concerts, Bible Study house groups and learning through discussion can also be identified as present.

WHOSE WE ARE

Clearly, we belong to God, who is known in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
But what kind of God is God? Do we see God as righteous judge, or as merciful saviour ...or both?
The preachers are helping us to ponder; each member will have their own experience of who God is.

WHERE WE ARE;



WHERE WE MIGHT GO

Some Trinity dreams and visions for how we might make more of a difference in our community
Trinity is well-liked. Worship attracts about 80 per week; The overall footfall per week is 500 to 700.

Advertise

Work with other Churches / Churches Together; engage in events which spread Good News

Encourage interaction between midweek groups and bookings and Church events

Family friendly community events which reach the surrounding estate.

Connect with children and young people; offer activities, maybe employ a youth worker

Reach out to the marginalised (refugees, ex-convicts, people with mental health issues ...)

Show good stewardship of creation through how we use and care for our outside space.

Provide Christian education e.g. introduction to Christianity sessions.

What might need to change at Trinity

Those in leadership need successors

Livelier worship songs which are well known or well-rehearsed, making use of our musicians.

Committees need help to listen to and hear what the congregation and members would like

How we view change; it's something which needs careful handling.

How Trinity views change

On the whole, we are more up for change than not, and recognise a need, to reach the young.

A LOT (10/10), * XXXX...XXXX...X...XXXX...XX.....XX.....XXXXXXXXX.....X..... * NONE! (0/10)
IT DEPENDS

There is a reluctance for extreme changes in worship (at either end of the scale).

Methodist identity and the Great Commission ("make disciples ...") matter a lot to some.

Others fear closure, or the loss of ministerial staff.

Further comments

We overcome difficulties and problems together, with joy and fun, through a deepening faith

We would like more opportunity to integrate and contribute to decisions about what we do.

We would like to make it possible for everyone to get involved, not just on Sundays.

We would like to work with other churches ... and to learn more about Methodism.

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 and people we know who need the love, comfort and the knowledge of Christ's presence with them.



During the month of March, please remember in your prayers, the area of Kidderminster known as Broadwaters.

<u>Broadwaters</u>	<u>March</u>
The Polish RC Church.	
St Oswald's CE Primary School and Nursery	
Residential Housing	
Retail	
The Rose Theatre	
Friends of Broadwaters group	
Members from Broadwaters Chapel and St Oswald's CE church, who since the closure of their churches, have had to change their places of worship.	

Editor's letter,

Dear Friends,

Sunday, 1st March is St. Davids's Day, so daffodils and leeks should be in abundance, as long as you don't eat the wrong one! Also March 1st is officially the first day of spring, and as I write this the weather does feel spring-like. The snowdrops are in full bloom and daffodils are showing lots of buds. The hellebores, of which we have a large number are flowering well, so everything is looking more cheerful. Let's hope that the weather continues to improve. I have still not dug my vegetable patch, it has obviously been too wet, but I noticed that a rabbit had dug a tunnel about 2 feet long through the soft soil. This had been done by a female rabbit and at the end of the tunnel would be a chamber where she could give birth to her young ones. Fortunately I found it in time and was able to block it up. I know that sounds bad, but the baby rabbits were not there. If I had left it, then part of the garden would have been out of use for a while. I have to get it in order with various crops growing because when we have our railway 1940's weekends, two of my friends take it over as a Land Army garden, they do a lovely job. Rob dresses as the farmer, and he weeds the vegetables and mows the grass so I am very grateful. Lisa dresses as a Land Girl and talks to people and shows them various artifacts. But that's not until the end of June.

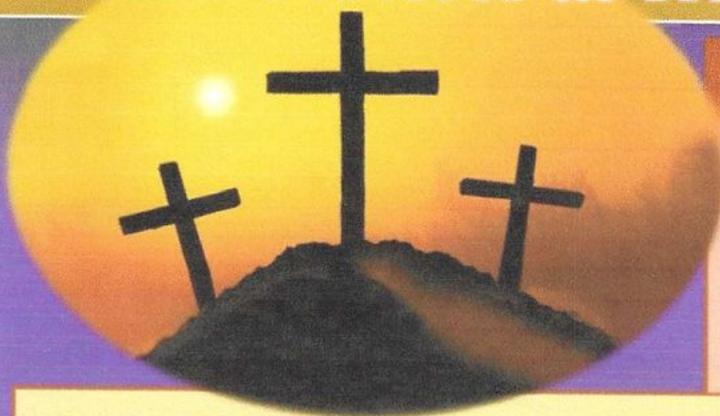
As many of you will know, two things I did as a volunteer I reluctantly have given up. One was being a Street Pastor and the other was working on the trains as Travelling Ticket Inspector (TTI) a job which required much more than checking tickets. I was a Street Pastor for 10 years, and a TTI for 31 years. Both I thoroughly enjoyed but can no longer be on my feet walking about for any length of time. I can still be a Prayer Pastor when the Street Pastors go out, and I can do platform duty here when the trains are running.

So I shall still have plenty of things to occupy my time!

David



Easter Services at Trinity in Holy Week



Quiet Reflective Services for Holy Week

Monday 30th March at 7pm
Led by Mr. Albert Wilkinson

Tuesday 31st March at 7pm
Led by Mrs. Sue Stinton

Wednesday 1st April at 7pm
Led by Mr. David Skitt

Maundy Thursday
2nd April at 6pm
Led by Rev'd. Verity Phillips

A simple meal of Cottage Pie with a Dessert of Apple Pie & Custard will be served, followed by Holy Communion.

For catering purposes, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Foyer if you are attending. *Thank you*

**Service for
Good Friday**

3rd April at 9.30am
Led by Rev'd. Verity Phillips

Easter Day

Sunday 5th April 2026

**10.30am Service of
Holy Communion**

Led by Rev'd. Verity Phillips

Please bring a single or small posy of unwrapped flowers, to decorate the Easter Cross.

Thank you

No Evening Service at Trinity



OFFERTORIES FOR THE FOUR WEEKS TO 22nd FEBRUARY

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Toatal
01/ 02/2026 + 08/02/2026	£180	£140	£1867	£2187
15/02/2026 + 22/02/2026	£315	£208	£1867	£2390

Average weekly offering - £1144.25

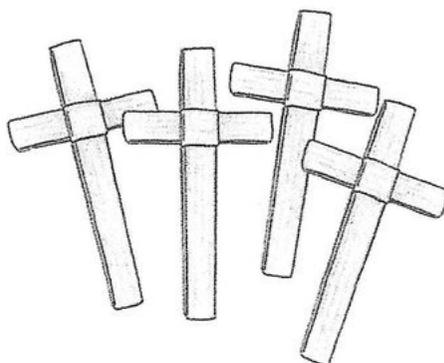
For the current year to 31st August 2026 it is estimated that offertories of £1100 per week will be required to break even.

SERVICES IN MARCH

March 1 st	10.30am	Rev Verity Phillips (Baptism)
	6.30pm	Mr Albert Wilkinson
March 8 th	10.30am	Rev Andrew Mann-Ray
	6.30pm	CHURCH ANNIVERSARY -- Holy Communion Rev Andrew Mann-Ray
March 15 th	10.30am	Rev Verity Phillips - Mothering Sunday
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Café Worship
March 22 nd	10.30am	Mrs Sue Stinton -- Passion Sunday
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
March 29 th	10.30am	Mr David Skitt -- Palm Sunday
	6.30pm	Deacon Becky Lovatt

THURSDAY SERVICES all at 12.30pm

March 5 th	Deacon Becky Lovatt
March 12 th	Mr Andrew Skitt
March 19 th	Rev Mary Austin
March 26 th	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion



BIBLE MONTH IS BACK!

Get ahead with Philippians

Our preachers and churches will once again be embracing Bible Month in October – and after Revelation, Genesis and the Gospel of John, the good news is that this year's chosen book has only four chapters! But what treasures they contain.

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

Philippians shows us that joy is not the absence of difficulty, but the presence of Christ in every circumstance. As Paul writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4).

There'll be more detail about Bible Month later this year, but as churches, small groups and individuals it will help us explore what it means to:

- Rejoice in all circumstances
- Live lives shaped by Christ's humility and love
- Stand firm together in unity and hope
- Find peace through prayer and thanksgiving

Bible Month is an opportunity for the whole church family to feast on the Word together – and to grow in joy, faith, and love.

And if you would like to get a head start, come and join your preachers at Trinity on Saturday 14 March, 10am-3pm, when we will be tuning in to watch a special training day, streamed live from Cliff College. There'll be keynote speakers, tips for reaching all age groups, a tour of the resources available and time for Q&A. It's a free event and hot drinks will be provided – but please bring your own lunch!

Mike Dornie

Secretary

Local Preachers & Worship Leaders' Meeting

GARDENING NOTES FOR MARCH

March can be a month of contrasts, in terms of temperature and precipitation, snow and sleet is still probable, especially over high ground, and frosts can be severe. The sun's increasing strength is apparent though, and given a south-westerly breeze coupled with broken cloud, bright sunshine can send the thermometer well up.

March's watchword is to make the most of any prolonged spell of fine dry weather to work outside, but don't be lulled into a false sense of security and believe winter's over. Remember the old weather lore, "in like a lion, out like lamb"? Well it could be the other way round, so take heed.

With higher temperatures, especially at night, March is usually the time when we notice that the grass is beginning to grow once more. Established lawns can be given a light raking over. This will aid the removal of debris, dead grass and scatters any worm casts that may be appearing. With accelerated growth, lawns may require a light cut, but do ensure that the mower is on its highest setting for a short trim. Do also ensure that if the mower has been in storage over the winter months it's in full working order and it's safe.

One of the first topics we covered in these jottings was the pruning of roses, which should be done during this month if possible. Hybrid teas should have all dead, damaged or diseased wood cut out completely. Twiggy or weak shoots should be cut back to the main stem. Strong healthy stems should be pruned back by about one third; however, traditionally one stem is cut back to about 6 inches to encourage basal shoots. Floribundas too should have dead or damaged shoots cut out completely and weak side shoots cut back to the stem. Previous year's green growth should be thinned out by about one third by cutting them out completely to ground level. Remaining older brown wood should be cut back about a half, one stem trimmed down to 6 inches.

Recently planted climbers shouldn't be pruned, save for the removal of dead wood. Established climbers should have older and thicker side shoots trimmed by about one half. Refer to a specialist rose book for detailed pruning techniques as pruning at the wrong time or in an incorrect manner can wreak havoc for the season's flowering!

March is the traditional time for starting off begonia corms. To encourage good root formation you can gently press the corm, (hollow depression uppermost) into a shallow tray of compost so that the rim of the corm is just level with the compost. Keep them on the cool side, and well lit and they will soon develop roots. After several weeks you can pot up into individual pots to grow on.

Although there are many lovely early spring plants, one of the most charming must be *pulsatilla vulgaris* (the pasque flower). *Pulsatilla vulgaris* thrives in a sunny spot with a free-draining soil that is slightly limey. If your soil is a little too heavy, then adding grit will improve drainage. The pasque flower is very distinctive. Delicate bell-shaped flowers appear from early spring, usually white, pinkish-red or deep purple in colour, all with central golden stamens. To prolong flowering, dead-head regularly. Although named varieties won't come true from any seed you collect, do leave some of the 'fluffy' seed heads to develop on the plant, as they are as distinctive as the flowers. As soon as the seed is ripe remove it from the plant and sow thinly in loam based seed compost mixed with equal parts of perlite or sharp sand. Place outside in a cool sheltered spot and don't allow to dry out. Germination can be erratic, but when through, move to a cold frame if you have on. When large enough to handle prick out by holding the leaves, not the stem and pot on. When large enough, plant out.

Whatever the weather throws at you this year, enjoy your garden; it's the only one you've got!



Bob



Bewdley Methodist Church

Music in the Chapel

The J&S Duo

Jamie Mcleish and Sophie Gilbert



*An afternoon of Swinging Jazz
Standards and Classic Hits*

Saturday 21st March at 2.30pm.

Tickets £10 to include light refreshments

To book tickets please contact:

Neil Sollom Tel: 07780 650491 / email: neilsollom@btinternet.com

or Mike Dernie Tel: 07977 063380 / email: mikedernie@aol.com

All proceeds to the Church's Outreach programme



THE FRENCH CONNECTION

*Faure's Requiem
and Vierne Messe Solennelle*

**Saturday 28th March 2026
7.30pm**

Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster DY10 2JN

Kidderminster Choral Society

Geoff Weaver - Conductor

Paul Trepte - Organ

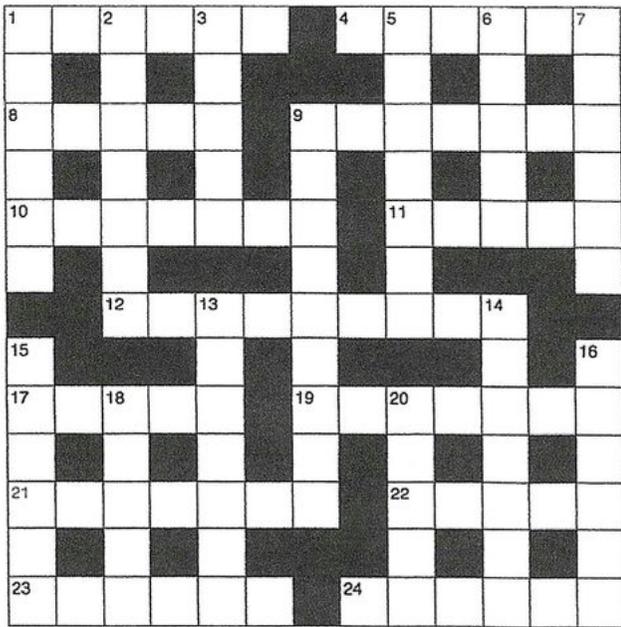
Online tickets from £14 (no booking fee)

On the door tickets from £16

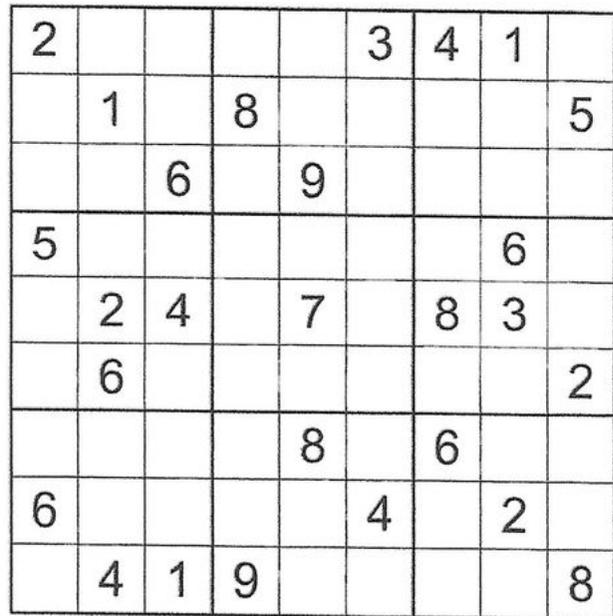
Age 19 and under FREE



Parish Pump Crossword



Sudoku puzzle (medium)



© 2013 KrazyDad.com

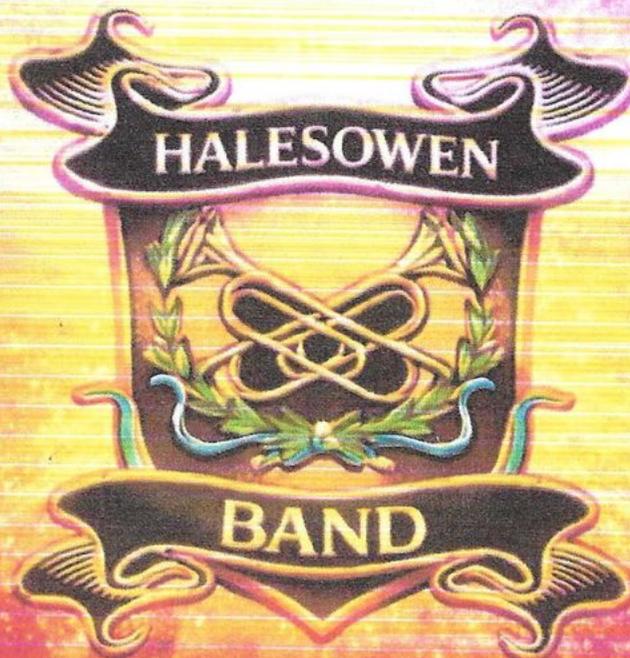
Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 ““They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

An Evening of Brass



Conductor: Chris Cobon

Friday 17th April 2026
7.30pm

Trinity Methodist Church
DY10 2JL

Entry via donation for
Worcestershire Prostate Cancer
Support Group
(cash only)

Trussell Give up 10 this lent

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

Our Give Up 10 reflections this year are focused on this idea of walking humbly. The Bible passages we've chosen speak of times Jesus meets people along his many journeys. More than just meeting them, we will hear how Jesus invited people into his ministry and how bringing the Kingdom to life always happened 'together'. Most importantly, we will hear the voice of our lived experience partners, Christians who have used food banks, throughout the process.

As regular supporters of Kidderminster Foodbank, both with food and volunteer members, the Trussell (trust) have produced a weekly email series entitled "Give up 10 for lent, walking humbly, . Our partners were in conversation with Trussell workers and Hannah-Fremont Brown, Justice seeking Church Officer at the Methodist Church.

In this first reflection, we find Jesus walking along the road which passes through Jericho. He meets a man called Zacchaeus,. We look at what happens when we step out in faith to make changes which create a more just and fair society . Read Luke 19 1 – 10. The big transformative moment is when Jesus calls Zaccaeus to come down from the tree. In this moment, something significant happens to Zaccaeus. He changes his ways so dramatically.

Dee, one of the partners, reflects: -

I've used a food bank myself. I was so scared to go. You are waiting to go in, and you don't know what's going to happen. You're in a long queue and it's very scary. But we've had people who use the food bank, and then come back to volunteer. Or come back with things to donate, because they have been so grateful. They've put their faith in that situation. The fact that Zacchaeus says he will pay back four time as much... his faith was in that moment, so wholeheartedly, a bit like the people who come back to t he food bank to say thank you. I'm smiling thinking about it, because it has such an impact. I imagine that's what Zacchaeus felt like.

A Hymn for Him

“He became poor that we may be rich, loving the world and leaving His throne; King of all Kings, and Lord of all lords, flesh of our flesh and bone of our bones”

That’s hymn 344 in singing the faith, you may just have noticed it with a swift glance because it comes before Hymn 345, our own National anthem “And can it be”.

If you need to count numbers in your daily life, count hymn numbers. Heaven knows where hymn numbers came from. Was No. 1 in the hymn book top of the pops? But of course, hymns mean a lot to us Methodists. Charles Wesley, our own hymn writer, was the evidence. He wrote over 6,000 hymns! Not to be outdone, across the ocean was another hymn writer. America gave us 8,000 hymns plus, that was Frances Jane van Alstyne, better known as Fanny Crosby. 15,000 hymns between them. Lennon & McCartney, you’ve a long way to go!

Our own ‘Singing the Faith’ gives us a wonderful collection of hymns. As the Bible says “Instead be filled with the spirit, speaking to one another with Psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything.”

(Ephesians 5, v19 – 20). Incidentally, although the Hymn book has such wonderful music comes the phrase “Why does the devil have all the good music?” This was a phrase known to Charles Wesley.

Wesley was basically a lyric writer; he wrote the words and somebody else wrote the music.

Londonderry Air, Cwm Rhondda, Skye boat song, Scarlet Ribbons, modern day songs used in hymns. Not to forget classical music; Finlandia is used for many of our great hymns. Of course, today many of our hymns are written by singer/songwriters. The Gettys, Stuart Townsend, Matt Redman and of course the father of them all, Graham Kendrick. Fast approaching 100 songs in Christian copyright.

The word hymn comes from the Greek Hymnos, meaning a song of praise. They have been distinctive features of our Christian worship, they unite us. From those wonderful hymns comes the message of Christ, it’s God’s word. As we sing those hymns together, they form part of our worship which helps our fellowship as a congregation. Don’t follow the modern trends of one church which changed the names of the toilets from Gents and Ladies to Hymns and Hers.

Did we have local hymnists? Well of course there was Richard Baxter, whose “Ye Holy Angels Bright” remains a classic. Down the road from me was born and lived Frances Ridley Havergal. Two hymns in our ‘Singing the Faith’ “Take my life and let it be” and “Master speak”. She’s buried in Astle Church; well worth a visit. Could I write a Hymn? Very unlikely, though Trinity Tidings would make a good title. My favourite of all time is “Make me a channel of your peace”, based of course on the prayer of St. Francis. There have been many versions musically. This was composed by Sebastian Temple in 1967. I missed it! Of course, 1967 was the Beatles “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band”. I was listening to that. Shame I’m tone deaf, can’t pick up the music but I just keep on singing those hymns.

Mike

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

Mike’s Smile Lines

A man was crying in a bar. The owner asked him what was the matter. “Well,” he said, “I was a trainee chef and they kicked me out”. “I had to cook a meal at home and the dog DID eat my homework”!

**

A minute’s meditation is worth an hour’s sleep. Shame nobody told Rip Van Winkle.

**

The outdoors provides a wonderful education for children, they learn about nature, birds, bees, animals, flora and fauna, and the weather. They also get to learn two difficult words – Trespassers and prosecuted.

**

My mate got a job in a factory making jelly – he was set for life.

**

Don't marry a tennis player – love means nothing to them.

**

When you've seen one shopping centre – you've seen 'em mall.

**

Pete: That's a cheque for £100 you've just written

Dave: I know, it's for my sister's birthday.

Pete: But why haven't you signed it?

Dave: I don't want her to know who sent it.

**

Last week a man fell into a vat of beer and came to a bitter end.

**

Mother: You know you're not to eat your food with a knife.

Jimmy: I know that, but my fork leaks.

**

Juliet: Will you kiss me?

Romeo: But I have scruples.

Juliet: That's all right, I've been vaccinated.

**

Harry: Have you read The Bible?

Sally: No, I'm waiting for the film.

**

They were holding a barbeque. Then they realised they only missed out one neighbour – a cantankerous old lady. Feeling guilty, the husband went round to invite her. "No way, it's too late now, I've already prayed for rain".

**

Did you hear the joke about quicksand?

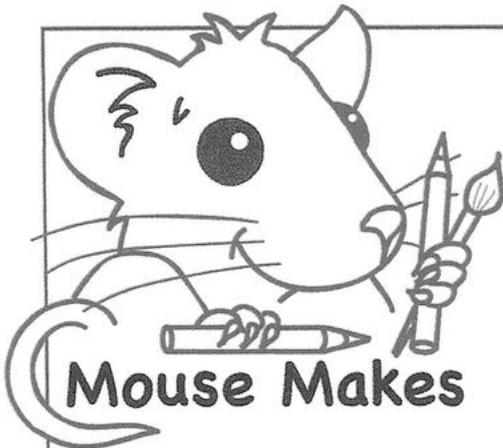
NO? Well it does take a long time to sink in.

**

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

Mike





The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2

- Across**
- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
 - 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
 - 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
 - 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
 - 9. **Jesus'** mother
Acts 1:14

- Down**
- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
 - 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
 - 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
 - 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
 - 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26



Answer the questions then put them into the crossword

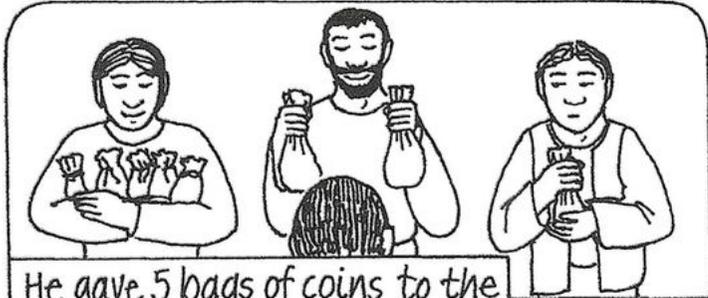
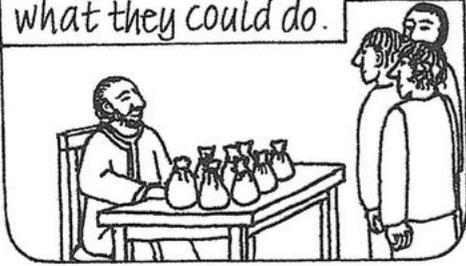
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus told a story to help his disciples to be ready for the end of time. 'A rich man was about to go on a journey...'

He gave his servants money to look after, depending on what they could do.

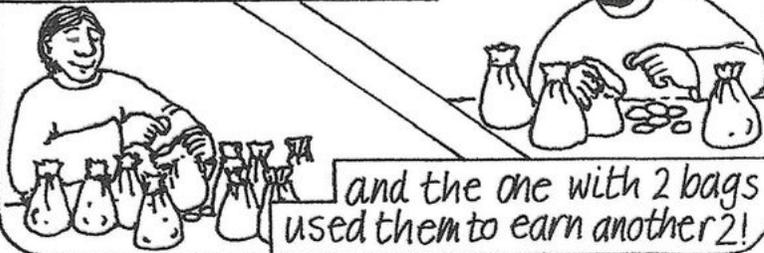


He gave 5 bags of coins to the first, 2 to the second, and 1 to the third.

As soon as he had gone, the first two servants started to work.



The one with 5 bags of coins used them to earn 5 more,



and the one with 2 bags used them to earn another 2!

The third servant dug a hole and buried his bag.



When the master came back, he called his servants to him...



The first two showed him they had doubled his money, and he was very happy with them.



You are a hard man who expects us to work. I was afraid so I just hid it.

If you knew what I expected, why didn't you do it?



Get out of here!



1st March – On St David’s Day, why the leeks?

St David’s Day, and it’s time for the Welsh to wear proudly wear a leek or daffodil.

Shakespeare refers to the custom in Henry V, Act 5 Sc.1, where Gower berates Pistol for mocking at “an ancient tradition begun upon an honourable respect and worn as a memorable trophy of predeceased valour.”

According to some sources, the wearing of leeks may be based on a legend that Welsh archers fought bravely at the Battle of Crecy in a field of leeks and, as a reminder of their bravery and loyalty, the Welsh began to wear a leek in their caps every St David’s Day. The legend, true or not, could be a source of the ‘honourable respect’ which the Welsh had for their valorous archers.

We do know that David – or Dafydd – of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others – living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

17th March – St Patrick, beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you’ve ever been in New York on St Patrick’s Day, you’d think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It’s all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master’s herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he “knew not the true God”.

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius’ mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick’s writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

Two donkeys

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: “Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don’t even recognise me.”

The other donkey replied: “That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much.”

Granny retired? You've got to be kidding....

The idea that grandmothers retire into an unburdened world of gardening and tea-drinking, golf and knitting is no more than a pleasant fantasy these days.

Instead, nearly 63% of grandparents provide some sort of childcare to their under-16-year-old grandchildren. That amounts to around seven million older people, aged mostly between 55 – 74. As many as one in three is doing the school run. Nearly one in five is spending more than 10 hours a week giving other childcare.

America has a nickname name for them: the 'granny nannies.'

Granny nannies do it for good reason: to enable their own children to be able to work longer hours. But granny nannies not only care for their grandchildren, they may also be providing comfort for elderly relatives of their own – and hold down a part-time job at the same time.

Perhaps Super-Granny-Nannies is the correct name for them!

Dog walkers now face unlimited fines if pets chase livestock

As of the 18th of this month, The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025 will become law for England and Wales.

This means that police officers can seize dogs which pose a risk of repeated attacks on farm animals. It also means that dog walkers now face unlimited fines if their pets chase livestock.

Up until now, the maximum fine for worrying sheep, cattle and poultry was £1,000. But the fine is now unlimited, and also now protects llamas and alpacas.

Baroness Coffey, the Conservative former deputy prime minister, said the change was necessary. "Livestock worrying has devastating consequences, both for animals and farmers, and it can be horrific, causing brutal injuries that are tragically often fatal," she said.

Rachel Hallos, National Farmers' Union (NFU) vice-president, hailed the rule changes as "a huge step forward. This legislation will act as a real deterrent and will make a real difference to farmers and their livestock."

Farm animals worth an estimated £2.4 million were severely injured or killed by dogs in 2023, up nearly 30 per cent from the previous year, according to figures from the insurer NFU Mutual.

Afternoon tea, anyone?

Do you take afternoon tea? Ever wondered where it started? The custom seems to date back to the mid-19th century, and the seventh Duchess of Bedford, Anna Russell. The Duchess got hungry at about 4pm each day, calling it "that sinking feeling". As it was still four hours until dinner (at 8pm), she began to have sandwiches or a small cake with some tea. Her friends thought this was marvellous, and the idea spread quickly through (hungry) upper class circles.

Soon, it seems, everyone in England was looking forward to Afternoon Tea, and a great British tradition was born. Though, during the last century, the sandwiches and cake gave way to biscuits, still we reached for the teapot each afternoon. Not so much anymore, it seems. In the last five years, sales of tea and biscuits have dropped. Perhaps we are drinking coffee? The research was done by retail analysts Mintel.

Share the Easter story – with an Egg

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

There are six types of eggs to choose from. Each Real Easter Egg comes with an Easter story in the box, the stories range from simple guides to 24-page activity book versions. So, buy a 2026 edition Real Easter Egg this spring and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school or sponsor a food bank donation.

The 2026 Real Easter Egg will not be available in any supermarkets, but the full range can be ordered at www.realesteregg.co.uk or by calling 01925 877004.

All in the month of March

It was:

300 years ago, on 26th March 1726 that Sir John Vanbrugh, architect and playwright died. Best known for designing Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard.

150 years ago, on 10th March 1876 that the world's first telephone call was made. Alexander Graham Bell used his telephone to call his assistant, Thomas Watson, after spilling acid in his laboratory. The first words ever spoken on a telephone were: "Mr Watson, come here. I want you."

100 years ago, on 30th March 1926 that Ingvar Kamprad, Swedish businessman, was born. He founded IKEA, the furniture retail company, in 1943, when he was just 17 years old. (Died 2018)

80 years ago, on 25th March 1946 that London's Heathrow Airport first opened as London Airport. It was renamed Heathrow Airport in 1966.

75 years ago, on 15th March 1951 that Dennis the Menace first appeared in the British children's comic, *The Beano*.

65 years ago, on 6th March 1961 that George Formby, the 'Ukulele King,' comedian, singer and actor died. Known for his comic songs. 40 years ago, on 3rd March 1986 that Queen Elizabeth II signed the Australia Act, severing Australia's remaining legal ties with Britain and granting it full independence.

Also 40 years ago, on 17th March 1986 that Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Prince Andrew, Duke of York, and Sarah Ferguson. They married in 1986 and divorced in 1996.

30 years ago, on 13th March 1996 that the Dunblane Massacre took place in Scotland. Thomas Hamilton, a former Scout leader, entered Dunblane Primary School, shot dead 16 children and a teacher, wounded 15 more, and then committed suicide. As a result, the private ownership of handguns was banned in the UK.

25 years ago, on 26th March 2001 that the UK Post Office was rebranded as Consignia, at a cost of around £2million. The name was so unpopular that the following year it was renamed The Royal Mail Group.

20 years ago, on 1st March 2006 that the Senedd – the National Assembly for Wales's debating chamber – was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in Cardiff.

Also 20 years ago, on 21st March 2006 that Twitter, the online social networking/micro-blogging service, was founded. Its website went live on 15th July that year.

10 years ago, on 31st March 2016 that Ronnie Corbett, Scottish films and tv comedian, actor, screenwriter and broadcaster (*The Two Ronnies*) died.

Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal 2026 – as it celebrates 40 years

Throughout the month of March, the end-of-life charity Marie Curie will be holding its annual flagship fundraiser, the Great Daffodil Appeal.

There's only one chance to give someone the best possible end of life.

And one chance for you to help give care that makes all that possible. Care that protects someone's dignity – instead of leaving them alone or in pain. This Great Daffodil Appeal is that chance.

Now in its 40th year, the appeal raises vital funds to help Marie Curie provide end of life care and support in homes, hospitals and hospices across the UK. By donating and wearing your daffodil this March, you can help Marie Curie Nurses bring expert end of life care when there's no cure, whatever the illness.

Money raised also funds the charity's free support line and webchat which is available to anyone with an illness they're likely to die from and those close to them. It offers practical and emotional support on everything from managing symptoms and navigating care to financial information, including how to get help with energy bills and bereavement support.

Whether it's taking part in a fundraising challenge, organising a bake sale or volunteering your time to collect donations, every penny will help Marie Curie deliver quality care to those who need it most.

The Great Daffodil Appeal only happens once a year.

Our love affair with our phones

It was 150 years ago this month, on 10th March 1876, that the world's first telephone call was made. Alexander Graham Bell called his assistant and said: "Mr Watson, come here. I want you." That phone call was the beginning of a worldwide addiction to phones. Phones spread quickly, constantly improved, and after more than 100 years of landlines, mobile phones arrived.

The first was introduced by Motorola in 1983 in the USA. The Motorola DynaTAC 8000X weighed nearly two pounds and cost around \$3,995.

The first smartphone, the IBM Simon Personal Communicator, was released in 1994, combining phone calls with PDA features like email, fax, and a calendar on a touchscreen. It was so expensive it sold only about 50,000.

But by the late 90s, the BlackBerry had become a top favourite, with its popular email and messaging services beloved by Barak Obama, among many others.

Then in 2007, Apple released the first iPhone, informally known as the iPhone 2G, with an advanced multi-touch interface and app ecosystem.

Fast forward nearly 20 years, and there are now about 7.5 billion active smartphones in the world. The total number of all connections (SIMs/devices) now even exceeds the human population of about 8.3 billion.

God in the Sciences

This is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

A Bucket of Tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are then swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, that we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a theology of science

which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.

Parish Pump Smile Lines

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?" Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left-handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, He must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at church last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

**

For the elderly minister's 75th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's (not Kidderminster!) decided to give him a present of a new suit. He was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, saying: 'Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit.'

**

A mother asked her young son, as they waited for the bus, to tell the driver he was five years old, because then he would ride for free. As they got into the bus the driver asked him how old he was. "I am five years old," said the little boy proudly.

The driver had a son of his own that age, and so he smiled. "And when will you be six years old?" he asked.

"When I get off the bus," answered the boy.

**

A teenager was always asking his parents if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit one day, the father demanded of his son why he thought 'The Almighty' had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied: "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."

**

"Just cleared out some space in the freezer" sounds so much more productive than "I just polished off another pint of ice cream."

**

Crossword answers

ACROSS: 1, Awaken. 4, Quench. 8, Hit me. 9, Sadness. 10, Semitic. 11, Ridge. 12, Testimony. 17, Psalm. 19, Indulge. 21, Deserve. 22, Ariel. 23, Rose as. 24, Beggar.

DOWN: 1, Aghast. 2, Attempt. 3, Eject. 5, Undergo. 6, No end. 7, Hasten. 9, Sacrifice. 13, Samaria. 14, Yelling. 15, Spider. 16, Dealer. 18, Asses. 20, Drake.

Sudoku solution

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

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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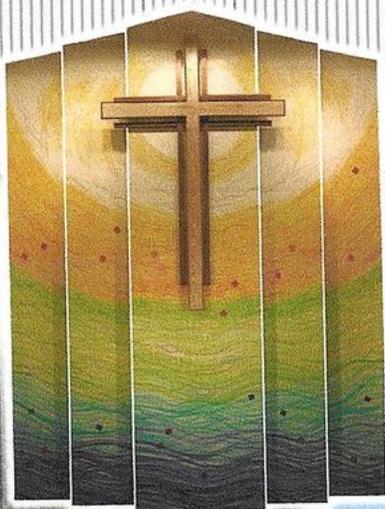
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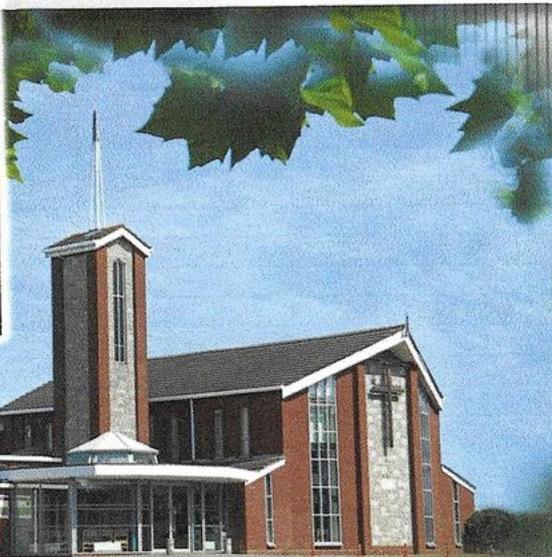
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Sunday Services

- 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)

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