• Trinity Methodist Church • Kidderminster •

Trinity Tidings



November 2026

All are welcome in this place!...

Trinity Methodist Church,
Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2JL

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The closing date for items for the Dec '26/Jan '27 Edition of Trinity Tidings is
Sunday 22nd November 2026

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

Dear friends,

During October we looked at St Paul's letter to the people of Philippi. Paul was a bit of an extremist before he met Jesus on the way to Damascus. He was perfectly ok with stoning heretics; people who wavered from the truth he knew as a Pharisee. After his transforming encounter with Christ, he discovered a different way. He became a leader who taught love and kindness, inclusion and tolerance, … his focus was on the God who became human, whom he had met – the one who had such a humbling loving, self-giving approach to life that his own life would never be the same again.

Such leaders seem rare today. Justice is often seen in terms of victory and being shown to be right, rather than in a curious interest in, and love of, other people and their perspectives. Too often people look for strong leaders rather than leaders who are full of wisdom, kindness, grace, and integrity, in times of fear.

Finding deeper wells of kindness and respect may involve asking Jesus to help us be kind and respectful towards ourselves as well as others. God sees our beauty, and our openness to his grace – these are not always those we expect; the first shall be last and the last first.

In November we have some opportunities to consider the perspectives of other viewpoints and experiences: on **11th November at Stourport Wesley**, we can join in the Connexional conversation on reparative justice; what impact has the slave trade had on people in this country; how did Methodism benefit; but also, how were our society and our theology influenced by arguments made in previous generations? What do we think about this?

An Advent course will be available on Mondays at Trinity exploring sanctuary and hospitality, under the Advent theme of the Christmas angels' message "Don't be Afraid". This will be on **Mondays 23rdNovember, 30th November, 14th December and 21st December**, and some pastoral groups may also meet as follow up gatherings to discuss the themes. This supports Churches which are seeking "Sanctuary" status. I'm also toying with a conclusion on **Epiphany, 6th January**, when the Church traditionally remembers the wise men and the flight of the holy family into Egypt as refugees.

By now most will have heard of how Lynn, our Circuit administrator until earlier this year, has been in hospital since the summer. She came back to a nursing home in Kidderminster, but sadly, she died soon after; quite peacefully. We will know more about her funeral later, and I'm sure many will want to testify to all that she contributed to the Circuit over the years. She was always curious and interested in people, and even in hospital she seemed to remember everyone in the Church, with prayerful concern for their wellbeing.

Church administration has grown as our society creates laws to deal with legitimate fears around safety and privacy, and this has a knock on effect for the pastoral care, teaching, and preaching which build us up as a community in Christ. How can we welcome God's interruptions in our lives? How can we prepare for the changes the Church needs to face in the coming years? The Circuit Leadership Team continues to ponder such questions.

Thank you to everyone who prays regularly both for and on behalf of Christ's body. You are the powerhouse of all we do, and it's deeply appreciated; the effect of your prayers shows! Our thoughts and prayers are with all who struggle with their health or wellbeing.

God bless,

verity.phillips@methodist.org.uk

Neuro-spicy corner

Recently, I was asked "What's a stimming toy?" What's it for? It helps to stimulate brain cells which can otherwise find their own amusements. Traditional Church works a bit like traditional school, concerts, etc. There are people who perform at the front, and the audience (congregation) are expected to sit still and listen. For increasing numbers of people this is an impossible way of working, not because they are rebellious and difficult, but because their brain won't concentrate unless it's well occupied.

Some people need physically to move in order to absorb what they hear. Some need to do something like drawing or writing notes in order to make sense of what they hear. I use a stimming toy with which I fiddle when I'm feeling something and haven't yet understood what, or when my mind is handling more than one thought at once, or when I need to control an impulse to say something which it's wiser not to say. Before I had such a toy, I would twiddle my thumbs, play with my skin, or focus the energy I was feeling in tense fingers, doodle, or silently hum a tune in my head. Using a 'stim' toy is much healthier, and hopefully doesn't disturb anyone. Stim toys or 'fidgets' are available in the "Access to Worship" boxes at the entrance to our churches.

Reparative Justice:

What are the implications of the slave trade for how we think and act today as the Methodist Church? An on-line conversation is available at:

https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/reparative-justice/

or come to **Stourport Methodist Church, Parkes Passage, on 11th November;** arrive for a national zoom call conversation which we hope to project for those of our Circuit who are interested incurious listening (and in completing the survey thereafter) from **7 p.m. til 9 p.m.**

Advent Courses

Becky is leading an Advent course at Stourport.

Verity is leading an Advent course at Trinity on **Monday afternoons, starting 2 p.m.**:

23rd November	**Hope is hiding in plain sight:** God takes Sanctuary among us
30th November	**A new chapter is beginning:** Hospitality to the Stranger
14th December	**God is nearer than we think:** Welcome the stranger - gift and redemption
21st December	**God interrupts for good reasons:** Cultures of Welcome, Hospitality & Safety

Please ask if you would like to join one of the evening groups which may also follow this course ... and look out for angel feathers throughout advent ... their message is, "Fear not!"

Congratulations!

The marriage of Jasmin and Chris takes place at Trinity on 31st October. We wish them every happiness in their life together.

Administrator

If you have the gift of administration, the Circuit Leadership Team would like to hear from you. We are looking for someone able to commit to about half a day per week in a Circuit Office as a volunteer, to help with the secure storage and updating of data records, and support for people who struggle with on-line portals. A role description will be written to suit the role and the person. Contact Rev'd Verity Phillips for an initial conversation.

PRAYER CORNER

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

* * * * * * * * * *



During the month of November, please remember and pray for the area of Kidderminster known as Habberley and Blakebrook

Habberley and Blakebrook	**November**
St John's Church	
Sheltered accommodation	
Kidderminster Hospital	
Police Station	
KEMP	
Shops	
Residential housing	
Gables, Bryden House, The Firs, Coombe House, Holly Fields and Brookdale Nursing Homes	
St John's School and Nursery, Baxter College and The Wyre Forest School	
Doctors Surgeries	



From the Editor,

Dear Friends,

It seems that Autumn has arrived, and the warm sunny days of the summer are now just a memory. Although we have had some rain, parts of the country are still in drought conditions. At least with the rain and damp weather there is no fear of lineside fires caused by sparks etc. from the engines! My vegetable patch was poor this year, the only thing that did well were potatoes. I had a decent crop, and because the ground was so dry they came out of the ground clean.

So now there are many things in the next two months, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday, and then the weeks running up to Christmas with all the busy things we have to do. Here at Arley we have a sound and lighting company putting up lights, speakers and effigies ready for Halloween. It is the one event on the railway which I thoroughly dislike. I don't like the idea, and the noise is very loud. There is a speaker on the far platform right opposite my bay window, and on the 'Ghost Train' evenings the sound is deafening, pounding footsteps, thunder and loud screeches. I shall try to be out those evenings!

As soon as Halloween is over the large marquee with tiered seating and a stage for the Christmas pantomime will be erected. Apart from the disruption when the marquee is being erected with more lights, the Santa Train days are fun. Then, of course, after Christmas a New Year. I am always reminded of how quickly time passes.

I always thank God that living here I am never bored! David



Not quite my house.....

OFFERTORIES FOR THE FOUR WEEKS TO 25th OCTOBER ARE AS FOLLOWS

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
04.10.26 & 11.10.26	400.00	106.50	1783.00	2289.50
18.10.26 & 25.10.26	288.00	185.00	1783.00	2256.00

This is a weekly average of £1136.37

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

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Nov 1st	10.30m	Mr David Skitt
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- All Saints Service
Nov 8th	10.30am	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion, Remembrance Service
	6.30pm	Mr Albert Wilkinson -- Café Worship
Nov 15th	10.30am	Mr David Skitt
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
Nov 22nd	10.30am	Mr Ray Simpson
	6.30pm	Mr Mike Dernie
Nov 29th	10.30am	Mrs Sue Stinton
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips/Deacon Becky Lovatt -- Healing Service

THURSDAY SERVICES all at 12.30pm

Nov. 5th	Deacon Becky Lovatt
Nov 12th	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
Nov19th	Mr David Skitt
Nov 26th	Mr Andy Skitt



Trinity Methodist Church

Sunday 6th December '26

10.30am Toy Service

led by Mr. David Skitt

This year we are collecting **'NEW'** toys on behalf of 'Home-Start'.

"Home-Start is a local community network of trained volunteers giving expert support helping families with young children through their challenging times. Home-Start is there when families need us the most."



Soft Toys...Books...Games...Crafts...
...Puzzles... Construction Toys...
...Learning Toys...Toys for play



...Let's bring a smile to a little face this Christmas!

Toys Suitable for ages - babies to early teens and should be unwrapped and brought to the service ~ *Thank you*

AWARDED GOOD PRACTICE BY PROSTATE CANCER UK

~~Kidderminster &~~ Worcestershire

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Prostate Cancer Support Group

Dear Iestyn,

I am writing on behalf of the Worcestershire Prostate Cancer Support Group to thank you AGAIN most sincerely for the generous donation you have made to our cause being £1,300 in August from various donations made by your members. This makes the total now £4,000.

Please can I ask that you pass on our grateful thanks to all involved, which has enabled this outstanding generosity.

I know you know that donations like this are vital to the work that is done to support men and their families affected by Prostate Cancer in Worcestershire, as it is now the leading cancer that men can suffer from, especially if not caught early, and we only function through such generous donations.

To that end we try to stage as many PSA testing events in the County throughout the year (so far 6 out of 8 planned meaning that 2,000 men will be tested) and also organise as many meetings and awareness sessions as we can to empower and educate.

Regards

C Marsh

Chris Marsh,

Christmas MARKET

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

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
KIDDERMINSTER
DY10 2JL

GROTTO ♥ CRAFTS ♥ GIFTS ♥ SMILES
FOOD



Come for the shopping, stay for the festive cheer!

SARAH@COBON.CO.UK


Kidderminster Valentines
Kidderminster
Valentines
Caroling by Candlelight
AT
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
Saturday 5th December 2026
at 14:30
Refreshments included
and a raffle with a
Christmas hamper
DY10 2JL

LONGEST DAY. By Rob Aitchison

Do not call me a hero
When you see the medals that I wear
Medals do not make not make a hero
They just prove that I was there.



Do not call me a hero
Now that I am old and grey.
I left a lad, returned a man
They stole my youth that day.

Do not call me a hero,
When we ran a wall of hail,
The blood, the fears, the cries, the tears,
We left them where they fell.



Do not call me a hero,
Each night I stop and pray
For all the friends I knew and lost.
I survived the Longest Day

Do not call me a hero
In the years that pass.
For all the real, true heroes
Have crosses, lined up on the grass.



Stan Rose

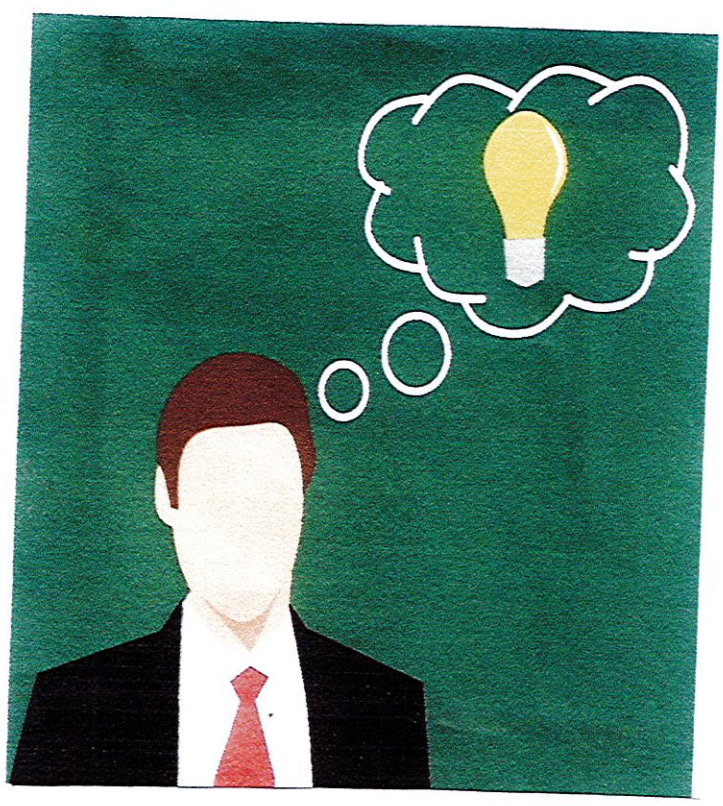
to me

Tue, Sep 15, 9:39 PM (13 hours ago)

Complete The English Proverbs, eg: Every rose has its Thorn.

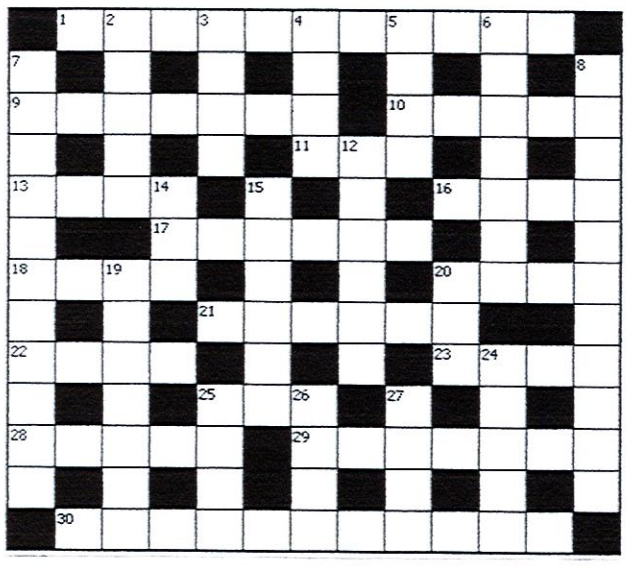
1. If you want a friend be a
2. It never rains but it
3. Honesty is the best
4. If life deals you lemons, make
5. In for a penny, in for a
6. It's always darkest before the
7. It takes all sorts to make a
8. Kindness begets
9. A stitch in time saves
10. A watched pot never
11. As you sow, so shall you
12. He who plays with fire gets
13. A tree is known by its
14. Bad news travels
15. Beauty is in the eye of the
16. Be swift to hear, slow to
17. Better late than
18. A good example is the best
19. Great minds think
20. Half a loaf is better than

Stan



STAN ROSE'S Christmas Quiz will be available in the foyer from November 29th price £1.00, in aid of the church Project, the Worcestershire Prostate Cancer Support Group. There will be an M & S voucher as a prize (not funded from the proceeds of the quiz). The closing date is January 7th. Something to do over the Christmas Festivities!

Parish Pump Crossword



Sudoku Puzzle (Medium)

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

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Across

1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all _, Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
9 Mosesí question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)
10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)
11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)
16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _God rather than men!' (Acts 5:29) (4)
20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)
21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
25 Tree (3)
28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 'O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
3 Way out (4)
4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
5 Done (anag.) (4)
6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
7 Concerning the study of God (11)
8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
14 Frozen (3)
15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
20 See 1 Across
24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
25 Time (anag.) (4)
26 Lists choice of meals (4)
27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

WEATHER AND GARDENING NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun; Conspiring with him how to load and bless with fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run. John Keats (1820)

There are many ideal subjects for producing a spectacular autumn display which are easily grown and widely available here in the UK. ***Trees for smaller gardens*** -Amelanchier AGM – orange and red, Cornus kousa var. chinensis AGM – orange and red, Prunus, such as P. sargentii AGM – bright orange and red, Sorbus 'Joseph Rock' – orange, red and purple. ***Large trees*** - Cercidiphyllum japonicum AGM – yellow, orange and pink; also curious smell of burnt sugar as leaves break down in autumn, Nyssa sylvatica AGM – brilliant red and yellow, Parrotia persica AGM – yellow, red and purple, Liquidambar styraciflua – brilliant reds and purples, long-lasting autumn colour. ***Shrubs*** with exciting autumn tints, Euonymus alatus AGM – rosy-crimson, Acer palmatum 'Osakazuki' AGM – brilliant orange-scarlet, Hamamelis – butter-yellow, Cotinus coggygria AGM – yellow, orange and red Berberis thunbergii AGM – red and orange, Enkianthus campanulatus AGM – bright red, orange and yellow. ***Vigorous climbers***, Parthenocissus tricuspidata AGM – brilliant crimson and purple, Vitis coignetiae AGM – scarlet and crimson.

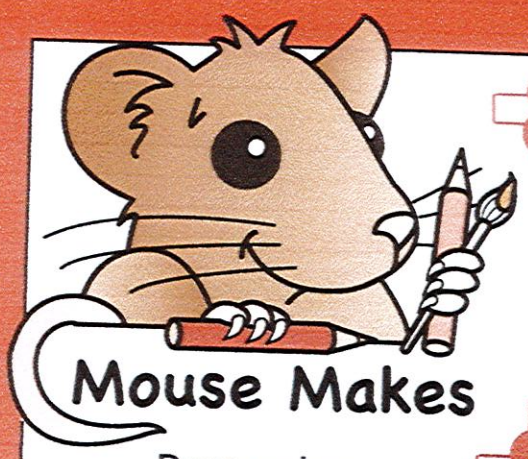
This 'final' month of autumn can be a busy time...Plant out bare-root or containerised deciduous roses, hedging plants, trees and shrubs, theses can be heeled into the soil for a short period if ground conditions are not suitable for immediate planting, but don't leave them exposed situations or to drying out at any stage. This is also a good time to transplant trees and shrubs growing in unsuitable locations, however if they are more than a couple of years old best leave well.

The pruning and or renovation of many deciduous trees, shrubs and hedges can be carried out from now throughout the dormant season once the sap is down, exceptions are tender plants and also Prunus species (e.g. ornamental cherries, plums and almonds), as these are vulnerable to silver leaf if pruned in the autumn or winter. Evergreens are best left now until the spring. Lightly prune bush roses now, if not done already, reducing their height now will reduce their vulnerability to wind-rock as roses are generally shallow rooted and can become loose in the soil if buffeted by strong winds. Climbing roses should have been pruned now. Shrubs normally pruned hard in the spring - such as Buddleja davidii, Cornus alba and Lavatera - can be cut back by half now also to prevent wind rock and tidy their appearance. Tie wall shrubs and climbers onto their supports to protect them from wind damage with any growth that refuses to be trained in this way pruned away.

November is the optimum month to plant out tulip bulbs and to cut down or divide faded herbaceous perennials, although penstemons are best left unpruned until spring. Ornamental grasses / bamboos can be cut back now, lift and store dahlias, cannas and tuberous bedding begonias once hit by the first frosts. As a precaution raise patio containers onto feet or bricks to avoid them from sitting in the 'winter puddles'. Remove any stakes and other supports from late-flowering herbaceous plants as they die down for the winter. Tidy up leaves from around the borders, either adding these to the compost heap or even placed into punctured bin bags to breakdown over winter into leafmould. Dig over beds as the weather allows but don't work on them when it's very wet or heavy clay, as walking on sodden soil without a foot plank or board can cause compaction. Hoe borders regularly to keep weeds in check, digging up perennial weeds with long tap roots.

Enjoy your garden; it is the only one you've got!

Bob.



Mouse Makes

Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.

Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25

Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13

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



REMEMBRANCE • PROTECT • DEFEND • SACRIFICE • SELFLESS • SERVICE
BRAVERY • VALOUR • HONOUR • COURAGE • HEROISM • LOYAL • REGARD
RESPECT • THANKFUL • MEMORIAL • TRIBUTE • COMMEND • ARMISTICE • PEACE

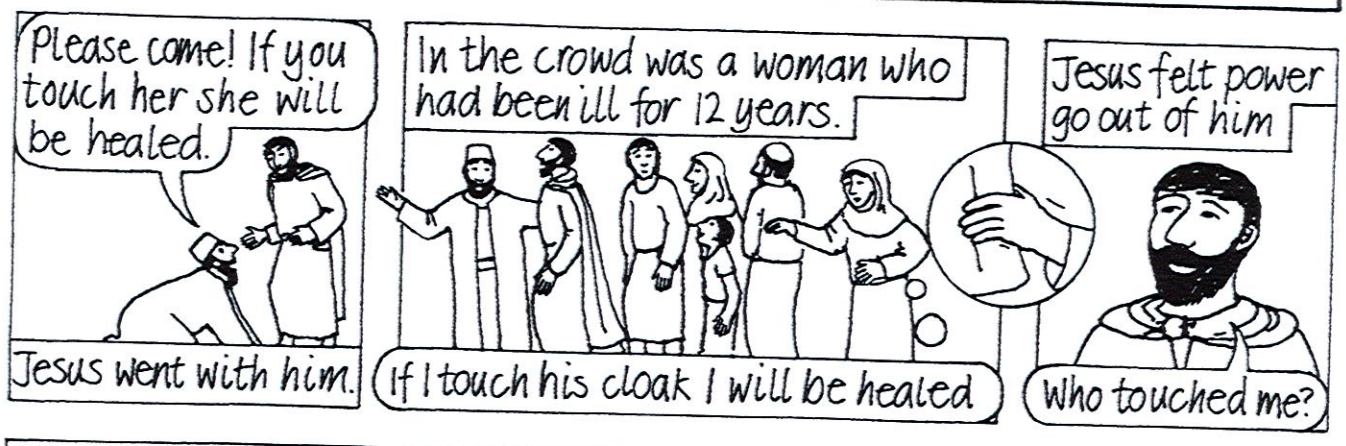
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Bible Bite

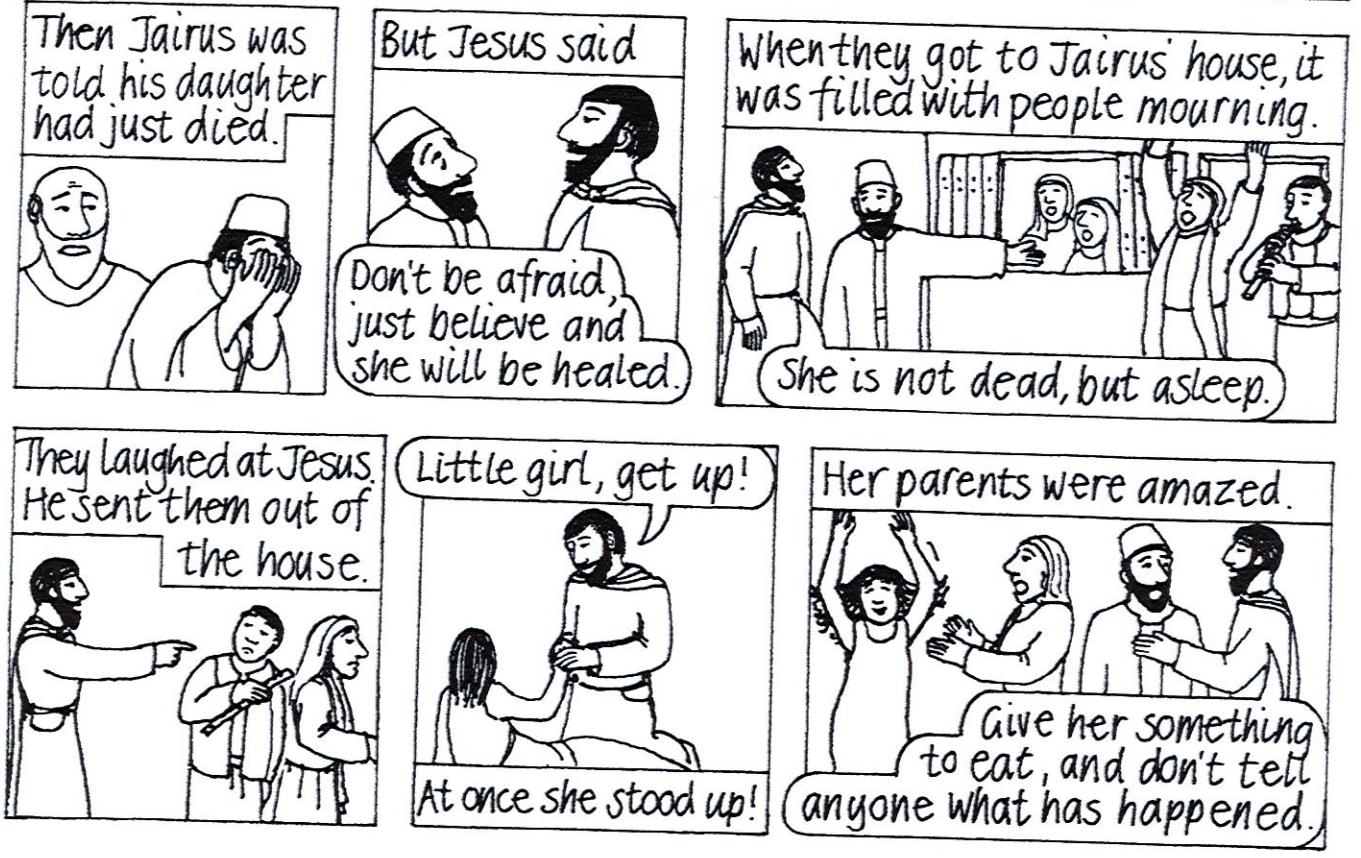
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...







Songs of Praise

Hard to believe I'd be writing about a television show, but here I am. Of course, I'd like to be writing about 'Top of the Pops' but that's the way it goes. There are some shows on BBC that cannot be copied by rival channels. They sit in awe. One, of course, is 'Top of the Pops', the other, head and shoulders above the rest, is 'Songs of Praise. It started in 1961 and is still there today. Black and white television, remember it, this was where it all started. Do they sing better in colour? No, but the sound is better.

Where did it all begin? Simply, the Cardiff Tabernacle in 1961. 65 years on and 3240 episodes later it goes from strength to strength. All hymns guided by the Great Jehovah. It was such a succuss – it was broadcast at teatime on Sundays. That many churches had to change their Sunday evening services, people were stopping at home to watch Songs of Praise and didn't bother to go to church for evensong. The word Hymn comes from the Greek 'Hymnos', meaning a song of praise. Let's face it there's nothing greater than singing hymns in company of like-minded people. Like 'Abide with Me' before the Cup Final.

Hymns can spur you on. Even if you're not a Christian, hymns have an impact on your life. That's what makes 'Songs of Praise' the greatest karaoke act in the world, we can all sing along with them. If I mentioned all the hymns broadcast on 'Songs of Praise' I could write a book. Sadly, to me some are not hymns. 'Jerusalem', The Old Rugged Cross', 'I Vow to Thee my Country' definitely not hymns, but that's my opinion. However, they are songs of praise so no argument. A hymn should be a piece of music that everyone can sing, a message upfront with God. Some say that the Book of Psalms is the only religious songbook that God Himself chose, and that inspired many of the hymn writers. One of them, of course, was our own Charles Wesley, the most popular hymn writer on 'Songs of Praise'. 'Love Divine' must be one of the most popular hymns of all time. Births, marriages and deaths, it's there.

O course, as 'Songs of Praise' grew many top stars appeared on it, and so they did. It was religions top of the tops. Sadly, we didn't get Dolly Parton's 'Coat of Many Colours'. R.I.P. We did get a bloke in a baseball cap. I thought it was 'Chas 'n' Dave', it was Stuart Townsend with 'In Christ Alone', the greatest hymn of the millennium. They don't write 'em like that anymore!

'Songs of Praise', 65 years and 3240 episodes and only 1 of them came to Kidderminster – and I was there. It was 1983 and filmed at St. Mary's, and they also filmed at Brintons Carpet factory. Outside broadcast vans and generators all perched on the land which is probably Trinity today. They got all the local choirs in to boost the vocal image. How I got in I'll never know; perhaps it was because I was photogenic, but I never made on screen. There's nothing to come back for now. Once the carpet capitol of the world, those days are gone. Although Robbie Plant singing 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross' could be a show stopper.

Long Live 'Songs of Praise'!

Mike

(Mike Knot, Stourport Wesley}



Mike's Smile Lines

Delivery firms FED-EX and U.P.S are joining up. They will be known as FED-UP.
**
Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods – they've never forgotten.
**
They told me to warm somebody's heart today and I did. I tipped tomato soup down her blouse.
**

Hi! This is Pat's Refrigerator calling. Her mobile's gone on the blink. I am taking her calls. Leave your message and I will put it on a magnet and leave it on the front of me.
**
If it wasn't for Thomas Edison we'd all be watching T.V. by candle-light.
** Next time you use your mobile phone try tapping everything in with your nose. OK, what you write may not make sense but you'll never take your fingers for granted again.
**
Where there's smoke there's toast.
**
A man goes into a fish and chip shop with a seal under his arm. "Have you got any fishcakes"? he asks. "Sorry", say's the fryer. "That's a shame" says the man "It's his birthday",
**
A man went into his bank and said "I would like to check by balance". "Right" said the clerk. "Stand on one leg and hold this football above your head".
**
Teacher: You haven't listened to a word I've said. Are you having trouble hearing?
Pupil: No Miss, I'm having trouble listening.
**
Just think if marriage was outlawed – only outlaws would have in-laws.
**
Don't let worry kill you – let the Church do it. (Headline from a church magazine).

==========



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

All Saints

At the beginning of this month, we celebrate 'All Saints' (1st November), when we remember all those heroes of the faith who have in one way or another been a witness to Christ in what they said and what they did. But sometimes the saints of old- those portrayed in Renaissance pictures or in craggy, oversized sculptures- can matter less to us than the saints we have personally known.

For instance, one minister tells of a good friend of his, Stan, a farmer on the Yorkshire Wolds, who died earlier this year. Stan was the sort of man you'd meet at the mart, or stop to have a chat with in the village. He always had time for you. You'd go away thinking 'salt of the earth', and you would be right.

But Stan was much deeper than that. He was a devout Christian, with a simple but profound faith, used by God in many situations that never made the public eye. His farm had a Site of Special Scientific Interest in that it captured many of the unique features of the Wolds. He was a knowledgeable plantsman, although you would have to drag it out of him. In his day he had taken Bibles to Soviet-era Ukraine and Romania, and received the thanks of Christians there who were so encouraged that they were not alone, that someone cared, made the effort to bring them the Word of God.

So Stan, although a quiet family man living on a fairly remote farm, had had a profound influence for God and for good in many people's lives, both in the area – and in Ukraine and Romania.
And there have been multitudes like him. This month, are there folk in your life who have been an influence on you for God and for good? What difference did they make to you?

All Saints-tide is the ideal opportunity to give thanks for them. They are life's unsung heroes, who help others steer a path closer to God by their wise words, or their support, their prayers. The impact of a good life on others can be enormous. For all of them, let's thank God.

Parish Pump 2026

What are you built on?

"Lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left..."
Isaiah 54: 2, 3

How strong and flexible are you, as a person? Did you know that the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco can move up to 20 feet in either direction as its centre? It's built to sway – to absorb and accommodate vast daily stresses and heat. But it always comes back to its true centre, because it is built on a vast system of steel and concrete that sinks down, down into a solid rock foundation far below in the Pacific.

Each of us needs to be anchored like that – onto a sure foundation. Without it, we will be at the mercy of the storms and strong tides of life. Burdens and flying debris from other people's lives will knock us off balance.

That foundation for us is Jesus. How is your relationship with Him? Is it solid? Is it deep enough to hold you steady on your course as 2026 draws to a close? Jesus urges us to 'abide' in Him. It takes time to get to know Him. The Bible is His message to us; prayer is our message back to Him, and more: for if we draw close to Him, He promises to draw close to us, too.

Parish Pump 2026

Are you lighting fireworks on Bonfire Night?
If you are planning to set off fireworks at home on Bonfire Night, you may wish to review the Fireworks Code, to help keep you and your family and guests safe….

*Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114.
- Don't drink alcohol if you are the one setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light at arm's length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five. They burn incredibly hot, and can cause sever burns.
- Keep pets indoors

Parish Pump 2026

The cost of a Bonfire Night party
Burning your money is one way to describe a fireworks party. But they can also be a fun way of socialising. Here are some of the recent trends:

In the UK, we spend an average of £100 to £300 on fireworks alone, if we hold a private garden party. If we increase that to a fully hosted or catered events, expect to spend from. £500 to £700. For your standard DIY back-garden display (Category F2 fireworks, requiring an 8-metre safety distance) can cost anywhere from £50 to £250, depending on the variety of single-ignition 'cakes' (barrages), rockets and what you do about the final finale.

According to confused.com, we spend on average more than a £100 on hot dogs, jacket potatoes and burgers. Then it is about £67 on decorations and lights, £64 on party bags and novelties, and maybe £64 for a cake.

Parish Pump 2026

Those giant autumn house spiders
We've all been there – quietly relaxing at home, when suddenly a HUGE thing with LONG legs scuttles right by you. You can't help but jump, and if you are normal, scream.

What just scared you was a fully grown adult male *Eratigena atrica*. They are among the largest spiders in Central and Northern Europe.

It has not just come in from the cold. It has been living warm and cosy, hidden in your house for weeks. Now it has left its dark hiding spot to race across your carpets and walls and bed with a definite purpose in mind: it is looking for love.

For autumn is mating time for the big spiders, and there are also females living in your house, safe and secure in cracks, lofts and behind furniture.

If you think giant house spiders are big, you are right. With a body length of 1.6cm, their leg span can commonly reach up to 7.5 cm. And heaven help you if you find you are sharing your house with a cardinal spider (*Tegenaria parietina)* – their bodies are up to 2cm long, and their long hairy legs can span up to 12cm. If *that* thing runs down the couch towards you, you'll notice it! And giant house spiders are fast. They can hit speeds of up to half a metre per second.

The good news is that giant house spiders are as scared of you as you are of them. They are disease-free, and their bite is extremely rare and harmless. They even pay their rent by eating your flies, mosquitoes, and other small bugs.

So, try and be kind to them, and let them live with you – they don't like the cold outside very much. Just lift your feet as they gallop across the carpet…

Parish Pump 2026

Good news about dog theft

The only good news there can possibly be about dog theft is that it is going down, and finally this is true.

After a horrific spike in thefts during the COVID-19, when due to 2020 lockdowns it seemed that everyone wanted a puppy, things have now settled down. According to pet insurance data and police figures, recorded thefts have dropped by more than 20%.

The new Pet Abduction Act of 2024 made pet theft a specific criminal offence, although criminals still target popular breeds like French Bulldogs, Dachshunds, and Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

So, it pays to keep your dog safe. Make sure your garden is securely locked, never leave your dog alone outside a shop or in your car, and ensure your microchip details are up to date. Finally, take some clear photographs of your dog, from different angles, and record any unusual or distinguishing features they may have.

Parish Pump 2026

All in the month of NOVEMBER

It was:

400 years ago, on 18th November 1626 that St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City was completed. It is the largest church in the world (measured by its interior).

175 years ago, on 13th November 1851 that the first telegraph service between London and Paris began operating.

150 years ago, on 1st November 1876 that the North Sea Canal in the Netherlands was officially opened. It links Amsterdam to the North Sea.

125 years ago, on 12th November 1901 that German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen was awarded the first Nobel Prize in Physics, for discovering X-rays.

90 years ago, on 30th November 1936 that the Crystal Palace in London was destroyed by a fire.

75 years ago, on 2nd November 1951 that the Suez Crisis began. 6,000 British troops arrived in Fayid, Egypt, to quell unrest in the Canal Zone. It was the biggest airlift of troops since WW2.

60 years ago, on 22nd November 1966 that the first chess match between two computers took place, between the USA and Russia. The Soviet Union's computer won.

40 years ago, on 22nd November 1986 that the American boxer Mike Tyson became the youngest-ever WBC world heavy-weight champion, at the age of 20.

30 years ago, on 18th November 1996 that the Channel Tunnel fire took place when a truck caught fire while on board a Heavy Goods Vehicle shuttle travelling through the tunnel. It caused considerable damage and the tunnel was closed for six months for repairs. There was another serious fire in September 2008.

Also 30 years ago, that on 30th November England officially returned the Stone of Scone to Scotland after 700 years. It was the coronation stone of the Scottish and later English and British monarchs. It is now on permanent display in Perth Museum.

20 years ago, on 23rd November 2006 that Alexander Litvinenko, Russian-born British intelligence agent, journalist and writer, died. He had been poisoned by radioactive polonium. His death is believed to have been ordered by President Putin.

15 years ago, on 12th November 2011 that the Prime Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, resigned over Italy's debt crisis.

10 years ago, on 4th November 2016 that the Paris Agreement on Climate Change came into effect.

Parish Pump 2026

National Tree Week – 21st to 29th November
It really is time to appreciate our trees. Did you know:

That the UK has 123,000 ancient and veteran trees, and more ancient oak trees than the rest of Europe combined?

Or that trees help us feel better? Studies have found that exposure to forests generally reduces our mental and physical stress, anxiety, and depression.

Or that 95% of land carbon in the UK is stored in soil, and trees help put it there? When wood and leaves fall, their carbon gets stored in the soil.
Or that hedgerows alongside our roads can reduce air pollution exposure by up to 63%?

No wonder that each year the Tree Council and its partners bring together the conservation sector, volunteers and tree-lovers to mark the start of the annual tree planting season. Together, they plant thousands of trees and hedgerows, to celebrate these "magnificent mainstays" of our landscape.

And we need more trees. Sadly, only 13% of the UK's total land area is covered in trees. That's compared to an average of 46% in Europe. In England, the figure is just 10%.

On the plus side, there are more than 80 community tree nurseries in the UK, growing an estimated 250,000 trees a year, often from locally collected seed, and which are given away or sold at minimal cost.

Parish Pump 2026

Miscellaneous observations on life

About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age.

An apology is the best way to have the last word.

Parish Pump Smile Lines

Still waiting
A pious man, who had reached the age of 105, suddenly stopped going to church. Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance, the minister went to see him.

He found him in excellent health, so the minister asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?"

The old man lowered his voice. "When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So, I figured that God is very busy and must've forgotten about me, and now I don't want to remind Him!"

**

Story
It was Dad's turn to read young Jamie a bedtime story. After 20 minutes, Mum called up the stairs, "Is he asleep?"
Young Jamie called softly back, "Yes, finally."

**

Home alone?
The bishop needed to call one of his clergy about an urgent problem within the diocese. But when he rang the vicar's number, he was greeted with a child's whispered, "Hello?"

Feeling impatient, the bishop asked, "Is your Daddy home?"

"Yes," whispered the small voice.

"May I talk with him?" the bishop asked. To his surprise, the small voice whispered, "No."

"Well, is your Mummy there?" asked the bishop. The small voice said "Yes."

"May I talk with her?" Again, the small voice whispered, "No."

"Well, who else is in your house?" the bishop demanded.

"A policeman," whispered the child. Startled, the bishop asked to speak with him.

"No, he's busy," whispered the child. "He's talking to Daddy and Mommy and the search team."

"What is going on there? Who are they searching for?" demanded the bishop, now thoroughly alarmed.

Still whispering, the young voice replied, along with a muffled giggle: "Me."



Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni. 16. Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23, Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide.

DOWN: 2, Often. 3, Exit. 4, Urge. 5, Node. 6, Soprano. 7, Theological. 8. Westminster. 12, Rebuke. 14, Icy. 15, Ritual. 19, Epitaph. 20, Joy. 24, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift.

Sudoku solution :

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

STAN'S QUIZ

1. FRIEND.
2. POURS
3. POLICY
4. LEMONADE
5. POUND
6. DAWN
7. WORLD
8. KINDNESS
9. NINE
10. BOILS
11. REAP
12. BURNT
13. FRUIT
14. FAST
15. BEHOLDER
16. SPEAK
17. NEVER
18. SERMON
19. ALIKE
20. NONE

A man was once doing a quiz,
At which he was always a whizz.
One day he got stuck,
And ran out of luck,
And what happened is none of our bizz



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

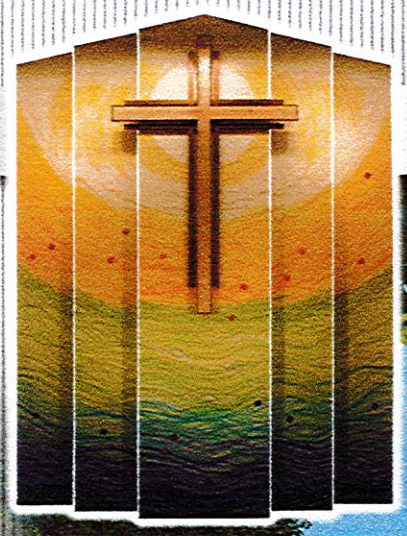
Passion Pudding Bread & Butter Pudding

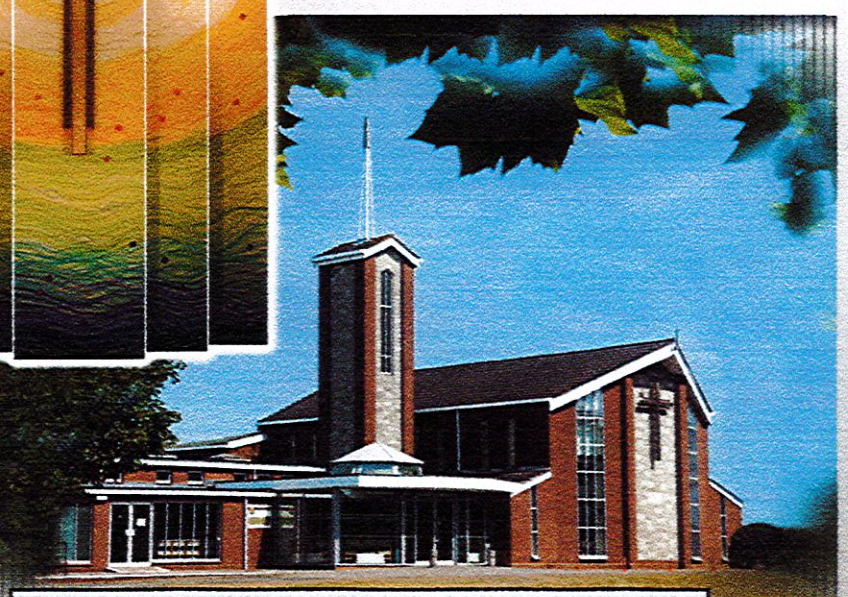
For more information or to book a place please contact Mrs. Jill Green via 07580009755 (between 9am and 5pm)



2026...2026...2026

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦





Sunday Services

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

Start the week...

Monday Morning Prayer Meeting

A short quiet time of contemplation and prayer.

Every Monday 9.30am – 10.am

Mid-Week Lunchtime Service at Trinity

Every Thursday 12.30pm – 1pm

Trinity Toddlers

Every Tuesday

10am – 11.30am

Contact:

Mrs Stella Batson - 01562 863503

Rev'd. Verity Phillips - 01562 823300

Trinity Luncheon Club

Every Wednesday

at 12.15pm

Co-ordinator:

Mrs. Jill Green

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2 JL

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

www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk