

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*

Favourite

Photographs!...



'Our Daily Bread'

Photograph by Graham Leigh



...all are welcome in this place!

**HARVEST
EDITION**

September 2024

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

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**The closing date for items for the October '24 Edition of Trinity Tidings is
Sunday 29th September 2024**

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

Thanks to John Harris for Designing the Front and back covers,
and to Jon Skitt for putting magazine online each month.

Favourite Photographs!...



'Our Daily Bread'

Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
Photograph by Graham Leigh

Front Cover Photograph:

"This is one of my favourite photographs, as it was quite hilarious at the time!

While we were there, the guy's stall collapsed, and all the bread scattered onto the ground!...

No problem! He righted the stall, picked up the bread and placed it back on sale!

...Needless to say, we decided not to buy a loaf!"

Graham Leigh

Dear Friends,

Happy Methodist New Year!

That might seem a little strange to anyone who isn't a Methodist, or for someone who isn't familiar with how the Methodist Church works. For the benefit of anyone who falls into either of the categories above, the Methodist Church year ends on the 31st August and begins on the 1st September. I think this is mainly due to the fact that Methodist Ministers who are on the move, i.e. changing stations, do so (under 'normal' circumstances) during August, ready to begin in post at the beginning of September.

In fact, Methodist or not, I think it's probably more appropriate to think of the end of summer as the new year because, apart from anything else, the schools begin a new academic year, which affects a large percentage of the population whether school age or not. After the summer break, when most folk take their holidays and focus a little more on relaxation and restoration, we settle back into getting on with life and back to the 'usual' routine.

Most of the church activities finish during the school summer holidays, there are very few meetings, all of which begin again in September. Obviously worship continues, but in the main Church and its people pause for a much needed rest.

We are told rest is important, in fact it is vital to our survival and regeneration. To be able to step back from our duties and our responsibilities and think of nothing but that which feeds us is biblical.

Jesus rested frequently. He often withdrew to lonely places to pray and to be by himself. We see evidence of him taking time off after a period of victory (Matt 14: 22-23). We see Jesus taking time off before making major decisions (Luke 6: 12-13). He also took time off after a heavy period of ministry (Mark 6: 30-32). Jesus took time for himself when he'd had enough of people (Mark 7: 24). He also took time off when he faced the most impossible task (Luke 22: 41-42). In fact God designed our bodies to need rest and he knew our souls needed it too. He modelled it for us when he created the world (Gen 2:2). In fact, rest was so important that he commanded the Israelites to observe a Sabbath rest every week (Ex 20:8-11).

Therefore, as we begin this new Methodist year, whatever we feel called to do. Whatever we feel called to attempt. Whatever we feel called to be involved with. Wherever we may find ourselves. May we do so with renewed vigour and enthusiasm that only rest in Jesus can give.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matt. 11:28-29)

Every blessing,

Nick.

PRAYER CORNER

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

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Keith and Maragaret Shaw celebrated their Platinum Wedding Anniversary on 31st July. They would like to thank everyone for the love and good wishes they received, and also for the flowers from Baxter and Trinity.

Congratulations also to Alan and Celia Phillips who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

We send our love and best wishes to both couples.

In your prayers during the month of September, please remember the area of Kidderminster and the people who live and work there, known as Aggborough.



Aggborough

September

St Cecilia's and Jubilee International Churches.

Railways and the Severn Valley railway Station

Harriers Football Club and supporters

Residential Homes

Children's Nursery

Retail

The Magistrates Court

Veterinary Practice

From the Editor...

Dear Friends,

*I wrote this one morning when I was on holiday in early August in
North Wales looking out over the Irish Sea.*

A bee in the clover...

The sun is warm, the breeze gentle, the silence soothing. As I sit in the tranquillity there is no bird song, they have finished nesting, and their young have fledged and flown the nest. Swallows skim over the grass, near where I am sitting, and in the distance there is the occasional croak of a crow.

There is no-one else around to disturb the serenity of the day. Then, I spot a bee in the clover. It has one aim, to find the tiny amount of nectar in the petals of the clover, it very delicately goes to each of the small petals and takes what it finds. I thought how industrious it was, without any distractions, unlike us who have so many cares, worries, and are often so busy. Why can't we be like the bee in the clover?

As I sat relaxing in the sunshine I remembered a hymn we sing occasionally, this is verse two:

I watch the sunlight, shine through the clouds
Warming the earth below,
And at the midday life seems to say,
I feel your brightness near me.
But you are always close to me
Following all my ways,
May I be always close to you,
Following all your ways, Lord.

As I watched the bee in the clover, I felt then, very close to nature, and to God.

I hope you have these moments too.

David



OFFERTORIES FOR THE EIGHT WEEKS TO 25 AUGUST ARE AS FOLLOWS

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
07.07 & 14.07.24	196.00	257.00	1499.50	1952.50
21.07 & 28.07.24	211.00	335.00	1499.50	2045.50
04.08 & 11.08.24	491.00	175.00	1509.50	2175.50
18.08 & 25.08.24	191.00	119.00	1509.50	1819.50

This is a weekly average of £999.12

For the current church year to 31st August 2024 it is estimated that offertories of £1100 per week will be required to break even.

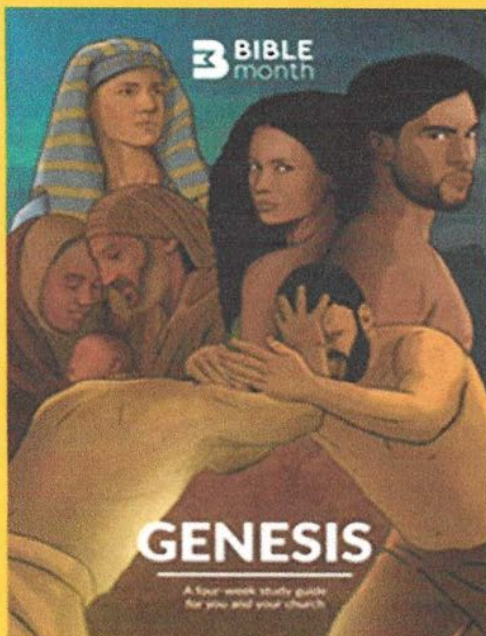
SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Sept 1 st	10.30am	Rev Nick Collison	
	6.30pm	Mr Mike Dernie	
Sept 8 th	10.30am	Mr David Skitt	
	6.30pm	Mrs Sue Stinton	
Sept 15 th	10.30am	Mr Ken Mothersdale	
	6.30pm	Deacon Becky Lovatt	
Sept 22 nd	10.30am	Rev James Hamilton	
	6.30pm	Rev Nick Collison	(Cafe Worship)
Sept 29 th	10.30am	Rev Nick Collison	(Holy Communion)
	6.30pm	Mr David Skitt	
Oct 6 th	10.30am	Mr Ray Simpson	(Harvest Festival)
	6.30pm	Rev Nick Collison	(Healing Service)



Bible Month

- coming to *your* church this October!



Bible Month is an annual campaign that celebrates Scripture by inviting the whole Methodist Connexion to *feast* on one particular book of the Bible together. In 2023 it was the last book – Revelation – and this year it's the first book, Genesis.

We will be having themed preaching on Genesis in all our churches throughout October.

To make the most of this, and support your preachers, you are encouraged to read the relevant chapters of Genesis before attending each Sunday's service:

October 6: *Genesis chapters 1-11*

October 13: *Genesis chapters 12-25*

October 20: *Genesis chapters 25-36*

October 27: *Genesis chapters 37-50*



Trinity Methodist Church

Trinity Toddlers

HELP WANTED !!

TUESDAYS IN TERM TIME 9.15 to 11.00

We have a wonderful team of helpers, but we are all 'getting on a bit'. There have been some weeks this year when we have struggled to cover all the jobs due to sickness or holidays and without more helpers it may come to a point where we will no longer be able to run the group. Trinity Toddlers has been running for over 40 years and is a source of outreach to the community and much appreciated by those who attend. We want to continue for many more years, so we are appealing for more members to join our team. In particular, from September we need:

Treasurer

Derek Austin has been our treasurer for many years, but he feels it is time to retire. The treasurer keeps the register and takes the money on the front desk on Tuesday mornings, banks the money and pays out any expenses incurred for craft, refreshments, etc keeps the accounts and prepares an annual balance sheet. They are also the cheerful welcoming face, along with Stephen, greeting the adults and children as they arrive. Derek will work with a new treasurer to ensure a smooth handover.

Kitchen

We need two helpers in the kitchen to join Eileen and Pauline to make teas and coffees for about 30 adults on Tuesday mornings from 9.15 to 11.00. This need not be every week, but having a team of four would ensure that at least two would be available every week to allow for sickness and holiday cover.

Craft Table

We offer a craft activity each week (sticking, painting, food) to reflect the season or special events. We have plenty of ideas but would appreciate anyone prepared to help the childminders, parents and grandparents work with the children in their care on the activity. Some help in preparation such as cutting out items in advance or food preparation is sometimes needed.

**IF YOU FEEL YOU COULD HELP IN ANY OF THESE AREAS, PLEASE CONTACT
STELLA BATSON**

stellabatson46@hotmail.com or by phone/text on 07930 541810

Trinity Toddlers Committee

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2JL

Tel: 07580 009755

www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk

TUESDAY GROUP ACTIVITIES

Tuesday September 3rd : A talk from Adavu. Hear more about the charity we support.

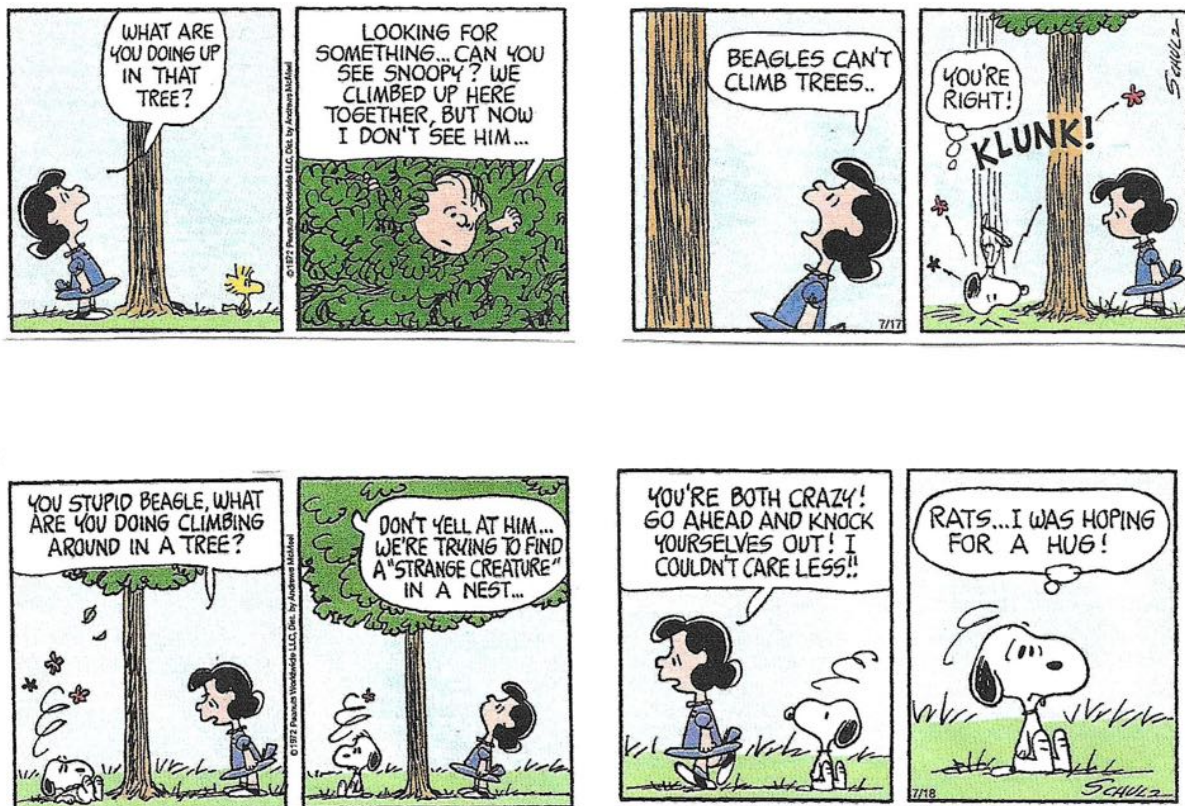
Tuesday October 1st: A Virtual Tour of Kidderminster.

Tuesday November 5th: Indoor Curling. A fun afternoon for ALL ages, no Lycra need be worn!!

Tuesday December 3rd: An early Christmas Celebration.

Please come along and support these events. We start at 2.30 and are usually finished by 4.00pm. An afternoon of fellowship, we learn a little and eat cake!

Please see Denise, Diane or Howard if you need to know more.



2024 Shoebox Appeal

Yes, friends it's that time again when I ask you all to start thinking about Christmas, that's if you haven't already, these things seem to come round so quickly. So, if you can think about covering a shoebox with lovely Christmas wrapping paper and filling it with gifts to be sent out to children, boys, and girls less fortunate than ourselves or even living in the war zones of this world, then I ask you to find the time and the love in your heart to do so.

Once again, the appeal will be in conjunction with TEAMS4U if you can supply your own shoebox or I can supply a flat-pack box, boxes will need to be covered, and filled with gifts for age ranges 3-5, 6-11, or 12+years that would be really good, and if you want to be adventurous how about filling a home/family box. All your boxes need to be with me at Trinity before the end of October, I will confirm the final date nearer the time.

Give love in a box this year, and have a joyous time in doing your bit for others.

Blessings, Albert



Food & Thought

The Food & thought group, which meets monthly on a Tuesday evening, has for the past few months been looking at the book of Psalms. Before the first meeting we were all asked if we would like to try writing our own Psalm - for the modern world! Only two of the group were brave enough, but we thought the results were good so we have asked 'The Editor' if they could be printed in Trinity Tidings.

A Psalm for today by Albert Wilkinson

Now then, Lord, much as I want to praise your Holy name,
You send another day of miserable weather,
Yes, Lord, it's raining again,
And on Monday, washing day, how are we to get the clothes dry?

I say: 'We' Lord, because up and down the land others are thinking the same.
When will it stop Lord? Will it ever stop?
We know full well that it will,
But then we do love to have a moan, especially about the weather Lord.

And Lord, you know how fickle I can be, up one minute, down the next,
I bet you say to yourself: 'There's just no pleasing him.'
So, please Lord, don't give up on me,
I hope I haven't been too much of a disappointment to you Lord.

Though I have to admit Lord that you are good to me,
You send me the sunshine and the rain,
For you are the Lord of creation,
Your handy work is ever before me, even on the dullest of days.

Treasures in heaven, isn't that what you said Lord? That when we do good to others,
We store up 'Treasures in heaven.'
Lord, forgive me for thinking I can only do good things in good weather
Forgive me for wanting what makes me happy.

Take up your cross and follow me, you said Lord. I can do that in any weather.
My word, you should hear it beating down on the conservatory roof!
I can hardly hear myself think, yet, you know Lord, even before I do!
Lord, it's just so amazing, even mind blowing to think how much water the heavens can hold.

So, com on Lord, shake a leg, or frame-thi-sen, as my Yorkshire forbears would say.
After all it is July, where has the summer gone Lord?
Is it my fault Lord? Am I guilty, Lord, along with the rest of humanity?
The instrument of our own misfortune, the course of Global Warming?

In you great mercy Lord, grant us wisdom to learn from our mistakes and courage Lord,
To make those choices in our lives, that will help to mend our broken world.
May we find in our hearts a love like yours Lord!
That we might radiate that love to you, to those that we meet and to the care of this planet.

O, Lord hear my plea, as I praise your Holy Name.

Janet's Psalm was inspired by a bridge over the canal near Sainsbury's, which she sometimes passes

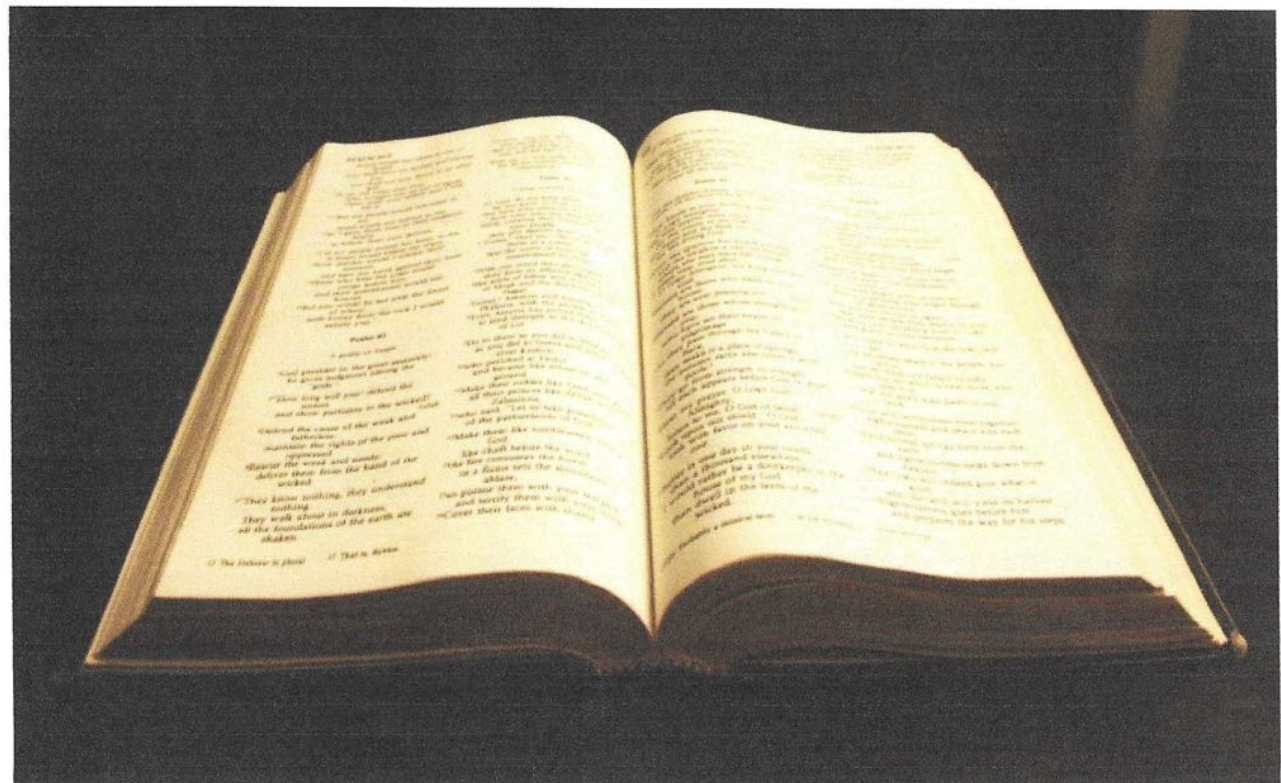
The Fence By Janet Murray

No-one knows who owned the fence – The Councils don't know,
nor our friends and neighbours,
who it was who erected a now rotting wooden fence over a pretty brick bridge
spanning the canal.

My Heavenly Father knows, He made the wood in the first place
and poured out water to nourish it,
so it's Him who each autumn turns the creeping plant He placed over the bridge
from common green to splendid Red,
making a rotten bridge a thing of beauty.

My Heavenly Father knows that sometimes my faith is as ugly as the bridge.
Almost non-existent,
But He can make a rotten faith into something beautiful – all I have to do is turn back to Him.

Every time I see the bridge I thank Him that however many times I fail Him
He can make me as beautiful as the bridge, along with all the Christians in the world.
May He be praised!





SPICED CARROT CAKE.

Makes 16 cakes, 20 mins to make, 30 mins to cook, Keeps 8 weeks un-iced. 20 cms square cake tin.

Ingredients 175 g.self raising flour, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1 tsp mixed spice, ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda. 100 gms light or dark soft brown sugar. 150 mls sunflower oil, 2 large eggs, 75gms golden syrup, 125 g carrots, coarsely grated. Finely grated zest of 1 orange.

For the icing 75gms icing sugar, 100 g cream cheese at room temperature, 1-2 tbsp orange juice, finely grated zest of 1 orange plus extra to decorate

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180 C 350F, Gas 4. Line the base and sides of the tin with parchment. In a bowl, mix the flour, spices, bicarbonate of soda and sugar together.
2. In another bowl, mix the oil, eggs and syrup, then combine with the dry ingredients. Stir in the carrot and orange zest, transfer to the tin and level the top.
3. Bake for 30 mins or until firm to the touch. Leave in the tin for a few minutes then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely. Remove the baking parchment.
4. For the icing, sift the icing sugar into a bowl, add the cream cheese, orange juice and orange zest. Beat with an electric whisk until spreadable. Spread the icing over the cake. Decorate with extra orange zest and cut into 16 squares to serve.
5. The cake with keep in an airtight container for 3 days.

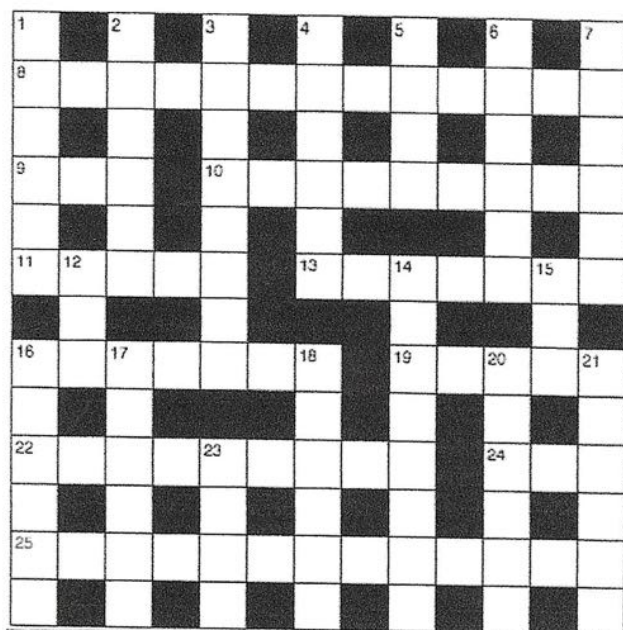
This recipe is from Sue Green, and has been enjoyed many times by Baxter members.

A QUIZ ABOUT HOLIDAY HAUNTS.

1. In which sea side town would you find The Golden Mile?
2. Where in this country are low tide and high tides measured?
3. What is the name of the stretch of water between the Isle of Wight and the mainland?
4. Which Prime Minister had a holiday bungalow on the Isles of Scilly?
5. What is a Martello Tower?
6. Which was the only part of Great Britain to be invaded and occupied in World War Two?
7. What is banned from Sark, one of the Channel Islands?
8. What is a groyne on a beach?
9. Where is Durdle Door?
10. Where can you find Nelson's ship Victory?
11. What comes ashore at Porthcurno in Cornwall?
12. What is the basis colour of the Cornish flag?
13. The railway line from London to Cornwall starts where?
14. Where is its terminus?
15. What was Sir Francis Drake doing as the Spanish Armada approached England?
16. The Plymouth Brethren set sail for America from Plymouth. What was the name of their ship?
17. There is a lighthouse on Plymouth Hoe. Where was it when it was originally erected?
18. Where did Billy Butlin open his first holiday camp?
19. What is built on a cliff top at Minack in Cornwall?
20. In which Cornish village was 'Doc Martin' set?
21. In which Cornish town is 'Beyond Paradise' set?
22. Who wrote the Poldark books?
23. At one time what was the main crop exported from The Isles of Scilly?
24. Where is there a smaller copy of the Eiffel Tower?
25. Which seaside town has the longest pier?



Parish Pump Crossword



Sudoku Puzzle

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

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Across

- 8 Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14-17) (3)
 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have —' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
 16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the —' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
 2 See 24 Across
 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus —' (John 11:35) (4)
 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

GARDENING NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

Whether the meteorologic conditions are settled and fine, or unsettled and blowy, there are a number of tasks which require attention before the 'real' autumn arrives in October.

We probably won't know, or notice what, if any damage has been done to our plants and shrubs during the summer until next spring. Don't be too hasty to consign summer flowering hanging baskets to the compost heap, as with a little TLC it is possible to extend their life well into September. It is possible that the growth has become thin and straggly, regular dead-heading will help. A balanced liquid fertiliser will encourage fresh growth and be beneficial.

If you want to plant up winter flowering baskets it is best to plant them up as soon as possible as this will allow the plants to get established early, promoting a healthy root system.

Popular choices for winter baskets would be Ivy, Primroses, Heathers, Pansies, Hebe, Skimmia and Euonymus. Add small spring bulbs, such as Tete a Tete, as well for an extra splash of colour. They are a useful source of colour as well as being low maintenance

The herbaceous border will be showing signs of 'autumn collapse' and it is now that foliage will be turning brown and yellow, requiring removal as soon as possible. Any material that isn't diseased with black spot or rust can be composted; otherwise it should be burned.

Autumn is a good time to inspect the lawn for damage and to undertake repairs. The removal of 'thatch' if it is not to build up to a level where it will restrict the penetration of water.

Use a spring tine rake to remove the build up. About every three years some areas which have become compacted will need to be aerated, using a garden fork every six inches.

Plant daffodils by the end of September, to ensure a good root system develops.

Perennial weeds can be treat with a suitable weed killer, one which is drawn down through the leaves into the roots. Don't spray on a windy day!

There is quite a lot to do to prepare for winter, but whatever you do, enjoy your garden.

Bob

Streets of London

So, we're all back safe from the once-a-year Glastonbury Festival. There's actually a religious stage, so you wouldn't feel out of it. Just imagine Graham Kendrick, Matt Redman, Keith and Kristin Getty, Stuart Townsend all singing together. Throw in Aled Jones and you've got a show. Forget the lights. Back to the festival, and of course, we get all the super stars. Occasionally there's the odd star from yesteryear, this year one of them was folk singer Ralph McTell. Who? you may say, so let me take you by the hand and lead you through the streets of London.

It's 50 years to the day that Ralph McTell wrote and recorded one of Britain's best protest songs, "Streets of London", and it's hard to believe that nothing's changed, in fact it's probably got worse. The old man in the closed down market, kicking up papers in worn out shoes, the old girl, dirt in her hair clothed in rags, carrying her home in 2 carrier bags. McTell wrote and sang this 50 years ago and still we can see this, not only in London, but in most towns all over Britain. What's happened? Poverty seems to be getting worse. I happened to be writing this during the 2024 election campaign. I notice no one is singing Streets of London, everybody "Things can only get better". There is a lot of denial; me, I'm singing "Help me make it through the night". How sad that in 50 years the streets of London haven't changed. What has the Church done? Well, we all know Methodism was based on a new form of learning, but are we winning? How are we to beat homelessness and poverty. Throwing money at people doesn't work, can religion help those people in McTell's Streets of London"? We give our bit, the Church does a lot, but it needs the rest of society to dig in. The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care. This is what Wesley preached from the start, one of piety. His preaching house in London included dispensaries where the poor could receive free medical help, and Methodists were charged to look after the poor, the lonely and those who had fallen on hard times.

Does the old man still sit in the all-night café, making his cup of tea last an hour, and does the old soldier make his way to the Seaman's Mission for a night's bed? That's how Ralph McTell put it, and what a way to finish a song; "one more forgotten hero and a world that doesn't care".

Mike Knott

Stourport Wesley

Sally's Army

The Salvation army is over 150 years old and remains one of the top Christian groups in the world. It was started by William Booth, a former Methodist who did not like the way Methodism was going, so he formed a new group. They called themselves Salvationists. Strangely it was based on the military, the congregation would be soldiers, at the top would be the General. At the start, that man was General William Booth. Strangely, he was to be one of the most prestigious visitors to Stourport Wesley in 1904, but how do you follow John Wesley, who preached at Stourport Wesley in the late 17 hundreds?

He formed the Salvation Army in Whitechapel, London, and it was originally known as the Christian Mission, holding open air evangelism and lively worship meetings. These included Christian words set to popular tunes to attract people who were not usually attracted to going to church. The first meetings were held outside the Blind Beggar pub in the East End and in a tent on a disused Quaker burial ground. As well as preaching the good news of Jesus, Booth was concerned about the suffering caused by poverty.

In the movement's early days, he and his converts set up a soup kitchen for those in need. The Salvation Army then opened hostels for homeless people and then started to expand worldwide. Today you will find them all over the world, with over a million members who hold Christian

worship at some 20,000 centres. They give people a temporary roof over their heads and help them develop skills. Worried about unemployment, William Booth opened a Labour Exchange 20 years before the UK government thought about it. Their family tracing service, which started in 1885, handles some 2,000 cases a year and re-unites hundreds of relatives annually. During the 2nd World War, Salvation Army mobile canteens provided refreshments for troops. Today they arrive at disaster areas such as the 7th July bombings, handing out drinks and offering pastoral support to the emergency services. Their soup kitchens go out every night in major cities of the UK, offering food and drink to the homeless and down & outs. It also offers help to those with drug and alcohol dependency.

Most famously of course, it's their music they're noted for. The Salvation Army Band and their tambourine bashing Songsters are famed nationwide. They even had their own pop group, in the charts with The Beatles in the 60's. Incidentally, the leader of that group, Joy Webb, has 3 of her hymns in our "Singing the Faith". OK, if I had joined them I could be able to play a trumpet - not, but I'm staying as a Methodist. Long live the Salvation Army.

Mike Knott
Stourport Wesley

Mike's Smile Lines

If children of today were sent down the mines, would they be known as minor miners?

**

The junior class visited a fire station. The firefighter held up a smoke alarm and said "Does anyone know what this is?" One boy stuck his hand up and said "It's a thing what tells my mother that the meal is cooked".

**

Did you hear about the bloke who used to steal women's underwear from off their clothes lines? He gave police the slip.

**

Did you ever think what the dragon thought when he first faced "St. George"? "Oh no, not more tinned food".

**

I took the wife to Madame Tussauds and the attendant said "Could you keep her moving sir, we're stock taking".

**

James Bond slept through an earthquake. He was shaken but not stirred.

**

The lights in the Chinese restaurant were too bright, so the Manager decided to dim sum.

**

How about the Scotsman who washed his kilt? He couldn't do a fling with it.

**

When I married Mrs. Wright I didn't know her first name was always.

**

I wouldn't say I'm stupid but I tripped over a cordless phone.

**

Did you see that new series on T.V. about fishing? It's got quite a cast.

**

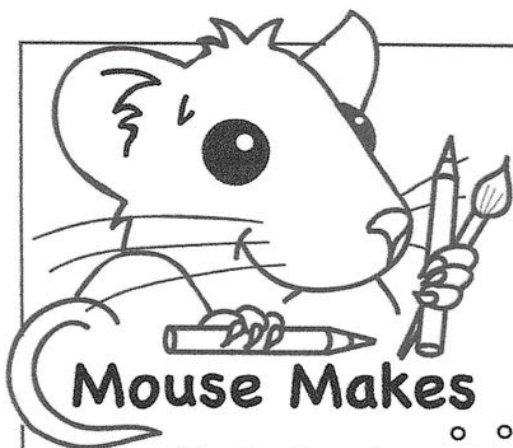
The cooks at our local Chinese restaurant come from all woks of life.

**

2 wrongs don't make a right, but 2 wrights made an aeroplane.

**

A man said his wife was such a terrible cook that they used to say grace after the meal.



HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples
_____ you, O God!
May all the peoples praise you!
The land yields its harvest;
God, our God blesses us."

Psalm 67:5-6 NIV

"God ... has shown kindness by
giving you rain from heaven
and crops in their seasons.

He provides you with
plenty of _____. He fills
your hearts with joy."

Acts 14:16-17 NIV

"Honour the Lord with your wealth
and the first part of your harvest."

Proverbs 3:9 ERV

"Let us fear and respect
the Lord our God.

He gives us autumn and
spring _____

at the right time.

He makes sure that we
have the harvest at
just the right time."

Jeremiah 5:24 ERV

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

HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN
NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE
FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY
BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

Find the words from the questions too!

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew chapter 20 verses 1-15

Jesus told a story to describe God's kingdom.
A vineyard owner went to the marketplace
at dawn to hire workers to pick his grapes.

I'll pay you the normal
wage for a day's work.



He went out again
at 9 o'clock ...



and mid-day ...

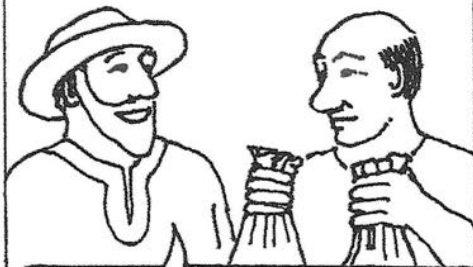
and 3 o'clock ...

and again with just 1 hour
to go before sunset.



I'll pay you a fair wage

At the end of the day..



Pay the last workers first.

They were given a
whole day's wage..



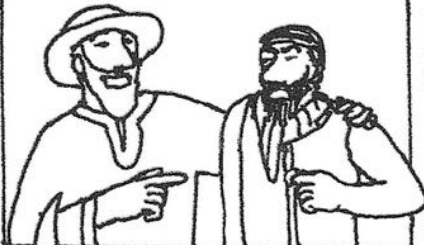
and so were those who
had worked all day.



You paid them the same
and we worked all day!



My friend, you agreed to
work for a day's wage



I want to give those
who were hired last
the same as you got.



Can't I do what I want



Or are you jealous because
I'm good to others?



Jesus concluded...

So those
who are
now last will be



Let's run with perseverance

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us.' (Hebrews 12:1)

With the Paris Olympics still so recent, this imagery can really speak to us. The Christian is like a highly trained athlete, and the surrounding 'stadium' is filled with champions and heroes of the past; they watch *US* – and we draw inspiration from *THEM*.

Because we are in training spiritually, it is obvious that every 'sin' is to be treated in the same way as by a modern athlete – for whom drug-taking, indeed any form of cheating or breaking the rules, is out!

But Christ's athletes are also to be careful to shun 'everything that hinders.' The wrong running shoes? A faulty diet? In the Christian's case, if the problem area is not an actual sin, what is it? Why, it is anything that, while in itself may be legitimate, but which nevertheless is a weak point, and 'hinders' progress.

The artist Rubens in the 17th century created a painting of Thetis – the mother of Achilles in Greek mythology – dipping her son into the supposedly protective waters of the river Styx. But, because she held him by his heel, this single part of him was untouched by the water. Achilles grew to be a mighty warrior; yet, during a fateful battle, an arrow that pierced his vulnerable heel was the means of his downfall.

The Achilles heel factor affects every single one of us. There comes a moment when those who mean business with Jesus Christ become aware that the Holy Spirit is quietly speaking within: "You're blocking the blessing in your life at this weak spot of yours.... by holding onto this object... by entertaining this objective... by persisting in this relationship... by continuing this activity. *Let it go.*"

What is this 'thing'? No one else can spell it out for us. It is between us and Christ alone. There need be no sudden crisis, no emotional surge. But the thing that 'hinders' is firmly – deliberately – to be discarded; no longer to have any part in our Christian living. And the sunshine of heaven smiles down upon us as we run on....

Parish Pump 2024

Sailing with the Spirit

Lester Amann considers what it means to wait for God

On a calm, windless day, it can be frustrating to be in a sailboat. Your sails are ready to go, but with no wind and only calm waters, you aren't going anywhere!

Some sailors try to propel their little boat forward by paddling with their hands. Others fret over the lack of wind. But others simply stay on land, and patiently wait. For it isn't until a breeze blows up, and the sails fill out, that a sailboat can skim out towards the open sea.

This scene is similar as to how the Holy Spirit works in our lives. The Bible describes the Spirit as wind and sometimes, like the sailors, we may have to wait for His energising power to guide and move us onwards. There are occasions, from a spiritual standpoint, nothing seems to be happening

— for weeks and months on end. During these waiting times we may wonder what purpose God has for us.

But while some of the people in the sailing club might have left their boats to do other things, they were also watching for signs of the coming wind. No one was packing up and going home! They were waiting with a purpose.

In our times of stillness and waiting, we can also wait with a purpose. We can pray for the Church, our community and the world. We can pray that we will be ready for God to move us into the next course He has planned for us. And we can keep our sails ready, for the Spirit to blow afresh into our lives!

Parish Pump 2024

How could God let all these bad things happen?

A journalist once asked Billy Graham's daughter why God allowed all the problems in the world today. Here is what Anne Graham Lotz replied:

"I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. 'And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?'"

"In America some years ago people complained that they did not want prayer in our schools. And we said OK. Then someone said: 'you better not read the Bible in school ... the Bible says thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbour as yourself.' And we said OK.

"Then Dr Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem. We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK. "Then someone said teachers better not discipline our children when they misbehave. The schools feared bad publicity, and said there was no difference between proper discipline and cruel humiliation. And we said OK.

"Then some of our top elected officials said it doesn't matter what we do in private, as long as we do our jobs. Agreeing with them, we said it doesn't matter to me what anyone, including the President, does in private as long as I have a job, and the economy is good. And we said OK.

"Then the entertainment industry said, 'let's make TV shows and movies that promote profanity, violence, sadistic cruelty and illicit sex. Let's record music that encourages rape, drugs, murder, suicide, and satanic themes.' And we said it's just entertainment, it has no adverse effect, nobody takes it seriously anyway, so go right ahead.

"Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why our society is so violent and dangerous, why no one seems to know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother people to cheat, threaten and even kill each other. Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out.

"I think it has a great deal to do with 'WE REAP WHAT WE SOW'."

Parish Pump 2024

Walking is a great way to exercise

You may be young or old, working endless hours, or retired. But there is one exercise you can still undertake almost anywhere, for however long or short a time: walking.

According to health specialists, the simple act of walking “ticks so many boxes – improving our brain, mental and musculoskeletal fitness, as well as our physical fitness.”

Here are five reasons why:

Walking raises your heart rate and makes you breathe faster.

It gives you the benefit of a moderate aerobic workout – without the stress on your joints. As for your blood sugar levels, consider this: after a meal your blood sugar level rises and your pancreas releases insulin to bring it down. But even a five-minute walk can help by blunting the spike in blood sugar. Try and keep your pace brisk – aim for 100 to 130 steps a minute.

Walking improves your bone density

Walking briskly engages the muscles along the back side of your body – the glutes, hamstrings and calves. They in turn put a bit of pull on your bones, which stimulates your bones to produce osteoblasts, which improves your bone density and reduces your risk of osteoporosis.

Walking improves your mood

It stimulates your parasympathetic nervous system (nerves that relax the body during stress) and stimulates your amygdala (that part of you which controls your emotions). And if you can walk near water (rivers, coast, in the rain) you get exposed to negative ions in the air. These electrically charged molecules are excellent for your mental health.

Walking helps your brain

You will sleep better, and your brain will be in better shape for memory and cognition. Walking also stimulates creative thinking – studies have found walking is a great time for problem-solving.

Walking helps your body shape

An instant way to look younger is to stand tall. So walk with your head up, shoulders back, and lengthen your back, to stand up straighter. And with firmer muscles, your overall body shape will improve, which in turn will boost your confidence!

Parish Pump 2024

Monty Don brings back the lawn

After years of insisting that garden lawns should be left unkempt and blended with wild flowers, Monty Don the TV gardener has made a U-turn with his lawnmower.

In a recent article in *BBC Gardeners' World* magazine, he admits: “This spring and summer I have made a tightly mowed and evenly green lawn. This is slightly surprising....”

But his turn-around will be welcomed by all those who love a neat-looking lawn to show off their flower beds, and to give their children somewhere to play outside. Monty Don stresses that gardening is, above all, about getting “the space right.” Otherwise, “it will not look or feel good regardless of what plants you use, be they ever so rare or fascinating.”

An unmown lawn, he now argues, makes your space look smaller, not bigger. “Long grass fills a space to quite a surprising extent, whereas mown grass takes the same area and expands it. Gardens need room for the eye and mind to drift and breathe. Too many plants and it becomes suffocating.”

Parish Pump 2024

NHS warns of dangers of energy drinks

The NHS is worried because eating disorders have risen by 52 per cent since the pandemic. And it suspects that part of the problem, for young girls and women, is their increasing use of energy drinks to suppress hunger and provide energy without calories. A huge range of these highly caffeinated drinks are now available, and they are seen to be fuelling record cases of anorexia and other eating disorders.

Claire Murdoch, the NHS mental health director, said it was “concerning that young women could be abusing energy drinks for weight loss”. She says: “We urge everyone not to replace their meals with energy drinks.”

One former young patient admitted that: “consuming fizzy energy drinks gave me a false sense of fullness and the energy I needed to go about my day, hiding the fact that I was actually exhausted, malnourished and seriously unwell”.

Red Bull, Monster and Irn Bru are among the most popular energy drinks on sale. But there are now hundreds of products, and energy drinks account for about one in three of all soft drinks sold in shops. Sainsbury's has 114 energy drink products available, while Asda has 86 and Tesco has 76.

Parish Pump 2024

All in the month of September

It was:

400 years ago, on 10th Sept 1624 that Thomas Sydenham, English physician, was born. He became known as the ‘father of English medicine’. His textbook on medicine became the standard medical textbook in England for the next 200 years.

250 years ago, on 4th Sept 1774 that British explorer Captain James Cook became the first European to discover New Caledonia in the south-west Pacific, during his second voyage.

150 years ago, on 21st Sept 1874 that Gustav Holst, was born. This British composer, arranger and educator is best known for *The Planets*.

100 years ago, on 25th Sept 1924 that British racing driver Malcolm Campbell broke the land speed record for the first time. He recorded a speed of 146mph in a 1921 Sunbeam Grand Prix car at Pendine Sands, Carmarthen Bay, Wales.

75 years ago, on 1st Sept 1949 that the Christmas song *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* was released. It was sung by the American movie-star and singer, Gene Autry, nicknamed the ‘Singing Cowboy’.

60 years ago, on 4th Sept 1964 the Forth Road Bridge opened in Scotland. It links Edinburgh to Fife across the Firth of Forth. (A second bridge, the Queensferry Crossing, opened in 2017 and largely replaced it.)

50 years ago, on 8th Sept 1974 that former President Richard Nixon was granted a full and unconditional pardon by his successor Gerald Ford for any crimes he may have committed or participated in while in office. (Nixon had resigned in August after Watergate.)

40 years ago, on 10th Sept 1984 that British geneticist Alec Jeffreys discovered genetic fingerprinting, also known as DNA profiling. It allowed criminals to be identified from hair, blood, or sweat left at crime scenes. It also allowed families to trace their lineages or determine the paternity of children.

30 years ago, on 22nd Sept 1994 that Roy Castle, British TV presenter, dancer, singer, comedian, actor and musician, died. Best known as the presenter of the children's TV show *Record Breakers*. He himself broke nine world records while presenting the programme, including the fastest tap-dancing.

10 years ago, on 18th Sept 2014 that the Scottish independence referendum was held. The citizens of Scotland voted to remain in the UK rather than becoming an independent country. (Independence: 44.7%; Remain in the UK: 55.3%)

Parish Pump 2024

Parish Pump Smile Lines

A bishop visited a primary school in his full episcopal attire – with his mitre, robes and bishop's crook or crozier. A little lad's mother asked him later what he had thought of the bishop's visit to his school. The little boy replied: "It was great – now I know what a *real* crook looks like!"

**

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church. A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for. "Sorry, mum," he confessed. "I got it wrong. We were supposed to bring a newcomer."

**

Being married to a woman who reads her Bible can have its drawbacks. When a man protested to his wife that wiping dishes was not a man's job, his wife replied simply: "2 Kings 21:13", and handed him a tea towel. Later he looked it up: 'And I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.

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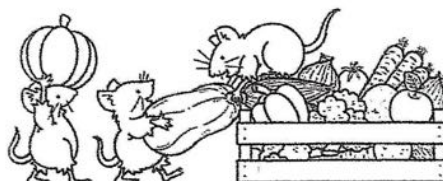
The poster read: *Where will you be on Judgment Day?*
The graffiti below read: *Still waiting for the Stafford bus.*

**

The secret to a clean kitchen is simple. Don't cook. Ever.

**

The inventor of the doorbell obviously did not own a dog.



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Blackpool, between North Pier and South Pier.
2. Newlyn in Cornwall
3. The Solent
4. Harold Wilson
5. A small defensive tower built on the coast in the 19th century to defend England from a French invasion.
6. The Channel Islands.
7. Cars. Tractors, bicycles and horse drawn carts are allowed.
8. A structure built from the shore out to sea to prevent beach erosion.
9. Lulworth Cove, Dorset.
10. Portsmouth.
11. The first transatlantic telegraph cable.
12. Black.
13. Paddington Station.
14. Penzance.
15. Allegedly, playing bowls on Plymouth Hoe.
16. The Mayflower.
17. Eddystone Rocks.
18. Skegness, in 1936.
19. An open air theatre.
20. Port Isaac.
21. Looe.
22. Winston Graham.
23. Daffodils.
24. Blackpool.
25. Southend, 1.34 miles long

Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword answers:

ACROSS: 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.



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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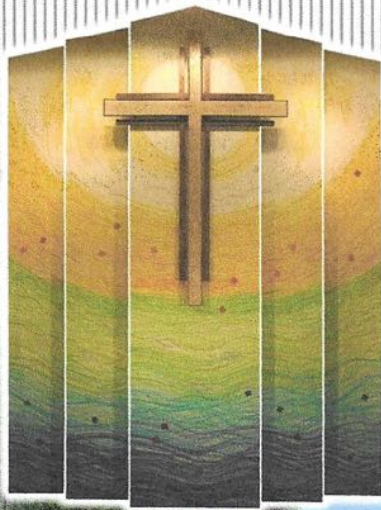
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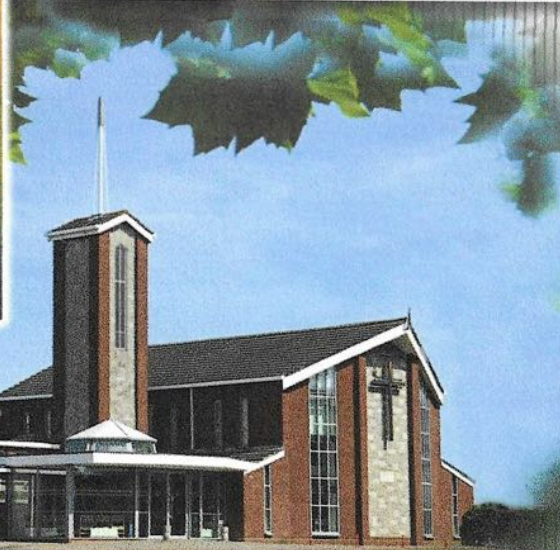
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SMALL
BUSINESS



♦ 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
9.45am – 11.15am

Contact:

Mrs Stella Batson - 01562 863503

Rev'd. Nick Collison - 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

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