

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*

Favourite Photographs!...



Mustangs in the Wild'
Photographs by John Bacon

...all are welcome in this place!

March 2025

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

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The closing date for items for the April '25 Edition of Trinity Tidings is

Sunday 23rd March 2025

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

Thanks to John Harris for Designing the Front each month.

Favourite Photographs!...



'Mustangs in the Wild'

Utah Desert, USA

Photographs by John Bacon

Front Cover Photographs:

'Mustangs in the Wild'

"This is a favourite photograph because my nephew, took his dad (my brother-in-law), son and me to look for wild horses - MUSTANGS - by the Utah desert (where OSIRIS-REX returned the Bennu asteroid sample to Earth).

Over the years they have visited that area many times searching for Mustangs but only previously seen two or three, Mustangs together, but after searching for about 2 hours we saw clouds of dust and knew a lot of Mustangs were on the move.

Eventually there were about 160 of them cavorting near a water hole within 50 yards of us. It was fascinating and quite mesmerising to watch."

John Bacon

Dear Friends,

I've been 'craning' my neck outside the manse this evening, trying to see if I can discover the aligned planets in the night sky that we've been told about on the news. Apparently Mars, Jupiter, Uranus, Venus, Neptune, Mercury and Saturn are all briefly visible this week just as the sun sets. According to the BBC website the phenomenon, known as a 'planetary parade' is a rare sight and it will be the last time seven planets can be seen simultaneously and so distinctively, until the year 2040.

Whilst I saw plenty of stars as I looked to the skies, I failed to see lots of planets. Apparently Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Mars were visible to the naked eye, with Saturn harder to see as it is lower on the horizon. And a telescope is required to see Uranus and Neptune. The BBC website seems to think that there would only be a few minutes after sunset to catch them before they drop below the horizon making them particularly difficult to see. Which makes me feel a little better, as I personally didn't manage to spot anything, other than lots of stars, as already mentioned. At least there was a clear sky.

I don't seem to be very good at this star gazing/heavenward gazing lark. A couple of months ago when the Northern Lights were visible, I didn't manage to catch anything, whereas others seemed to be getting amazing photos on their phones and cameras. As a result, I suspect that had I been a wise man/astronomer two thousand years ago I most likely would even have missed the star that led the others to the birth of Jesus!

As a lad I did have an interest in star gazing to the point where I had a telescope and a nominal understanding of the sky at night, mainly gained by owning a few books and watching the programme of the same name hosted by the 'fearlessly eccentric' star gazer and astronomer Patrick Moore, notable for his wearing of a monocle and idiosyncratic style.

But leaving all this aside, I would have thought and hoped that anyone with a faith would at least have something of an interest in the world beyond the one in which we live. Would have an interest in the universe and that which is beyond our understanding, the place where we perhaps believe God can be found.

Having said this, it is worth mentioning that, I for one don't believe in a God who is simply male and lives in the clouds in the sky, with white hair and a long beard. But instead is a mystery beyond anything we can imagine or comprehend, an entity that is greater than anything we can possibly imagine.

I personally believe that, when we search the night sky, it is like searching for God. It is both unfathomable and un-see-able, yet but before our very eyes (for those who are able to see).

However I also believe the concept of God is only fathomable and understandable through the life and witness of Jesus Christ and however hard we might gaze at the sky we will only truly know God through those who live the life of Jesus.

In our quest for that which is distant and amazing, may we not miss God who can most readily be found in the mundane and the ordinary, the messy and the boring, the dirty and the risqué.

In this uncertain time in our world may we all experience God wherever God may be found.

Every blessing,

Nick

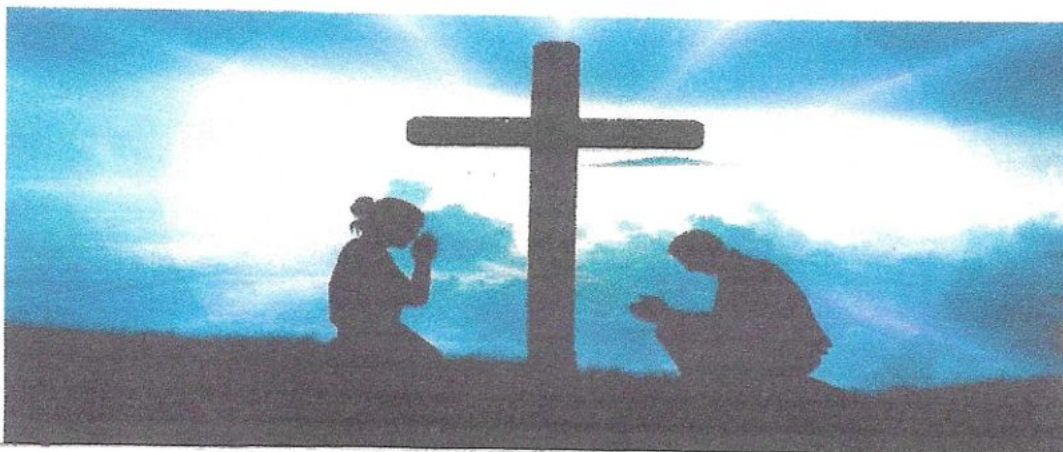
PRAYER CORNER

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



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

<u>Broadwaters</u>	<u>March</u>
The Polish RC Church.	
St Oswald's CE Primary School and Nursery	
Residential Housing	
Retail	
The Rose Theatre	
Friends of Broadwaters Group	
Our friends from Broadwaters Methodist Chapel who have now taken membership at other churches within the circuit.	
The Broadwaters Chapel Project	



From the Editor,

Dear Friends,

I came across something that Jimi Hendrix, the guitarist and songwriter said,

When the power of love
overcomes the love of power
the world will know peace.

Simple, profound words which are true, together with the words of a song, 'What the world needs now, is love, sweet love.' If only those words could become real, true, and something that the leaders of all the nations could believe, then the world would be at peace, and all its people would live in harmony.

A change of mood. I have been trying to do more walking in the last few days, because it will soon be time to think about holidays, and I like to explore places on foot.

The other evening, as I returned from a walk up the lane, I heard a thrush singing in one of the big trees. I couldn't see it, but it was singing its heart out. It was dusk, and it was as if the thrush was welcoming me home. A recent Sunday evening as I set out for church I stopped, because a fallow deer stag was standing in the middle of the road, while his harem of six does walked across and through the hedge. He looked at my car as if to say, 'Don't you dare!' I thought then as I do many times, what a wonderful world we live in. Fred Pratt Green in one of his hymns wrote, 'God in his love for us lent us this planet.' Let us tread carefully on it.

David



OFFERTORIES FOR THE FOUR WEEKS TO 23rd FEBRUARY ARE AS FOLLOWS

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
02.02 & 09.02.25	146.00	236.91	1613.50	1996.41
16.02 & 23.02.25	315.00	284.00	1613.50	2212.50

This is a weekly average of £1052.22

For the current church year to 31st August 2025 it is estimated that offertories of £1200 per week will be required to break even.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH

March 2 nd	10.30am	Rev Denise Williamson	Church Anniversary
	6.30pm	Rev Denise Williamson	
March 9 th	10.30am	Deacon Becky Lovatt	
	6.30pm	Mr Mike Dernie	
March 16 th	10.30am	Dr Ken Mothersdale	
	6.30pm	Mr Ray Simpson	
March 23 rd	10.30am	Rev James Hamilton	-- Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Rev Nick Collison	-- Café Worship
March 30 th	10.30am	Rev Nick Collison	-- Mothering Sunday
	6.30pm	Rev Nick Collison	-- Praise Service
April 6 th	10.30am	Mr Albert Wilkinson	
	6.30pm	Mrs Sue Stinton	

THURSDAY SERVICES ALL AT 12.30pm

March 6 th	Rev Matthew Strong
March 13 th	Rev James Hamilton -- Holy Communion
March 20 th	Rev Nick Collison Holy Communion
March 27 th	Deacon Becky Lovatt



Becoming a Church of Sanctuary

Trinity Methodist and Baxter URC

“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13:34

We’re called to be good neighbours to people in need, and to challenge injustice. In a time when attitudes towards refugees and asylum seekers is becoming increasingly hostile, it’s also essential that we challenge injustice by standing in solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers in our community.

Sanctuary is a long-standing prophetic theme of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, calling on churches to provide safety and solidarity for people fleeing oppression and harm. Churches are called to be welcoming places of safety and to be proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.

The Church of Sanctuary network encourages us to do three things:

- **Learn** about the current context for asylum seekers and refugees in our community. Are there asylum seekers and refugees who have been resettled into our community? What are the national policies currently around welcoming asylum seekers and resettling refugees?
- **Embed** a culture of welcome in the whole congregation. How can we ensure that the culture we create is safe, inclusive and welcoming to all, especially people made vulnerable by the need to seek sanctuary? Explore together what it means to create spaces of genuine safety and solidarity.
- **Share** about the importance of offering welcome. Draw on our positive relationships and experience of welcome to oppose hostile and harmful policies

So far, we have: Registered on the National Website of City of Sanctuary

- Signed up on the Wyre Forest Website
- Our Next Steps are:
 - Create, an obvious, visual welcome to the church building
 - An article in The Shuttle that will encourage other community groups within the town to come on board.
 - Designated Refugee Week 16th -22nd June, culminating in Refugee Sunday on 22nd June.

At present we already offer two meeting rooms a month free of charge to Wyre Forest Refugee Support Group. We run a Warm Space every Thursday morning, Toddlers on a Tuesday and Knit and Natter every other Wednesday. We would like to thank you all for your support and prayers as we embark on this exciting project.

Diane, Denise, Maureen, Mary and Rachel.

For more details on Church of Sanctuary: <https://churchofsanctuary.org>

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/social-justice/church-of-sanctuary>

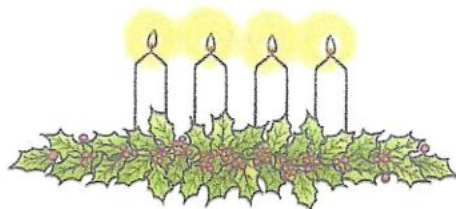
WARM WELCOME SPACES

In January 2025, Trinity Methodist and Baxter Church will be joining the Government supported **Warm Welcome Space** on a Thursday morning from 9.00 am to 12.00. This is a wonderful new way of reaching out to the folks in the area with God's love.

MAGAZINES JIGSAWS KNITTING PLAY A GAME CHAT OVER A CUP OF TEA OF COFFEE. KEEP WARM



Warm Welcome Spaces are places of belonging. The difference Warm Welcome Spaces bring to communities is remarkable, they bring connection, friendship and human warmth, helping people feel less isolated and boosting wellbeing. There is a growing network of 4000 Warm Welcome Spaces. Every one is unique and offers different kinds of support and activities. Each one is heated and able to provide basic refreshments such as tea and coffee. They are non-judgemental spaces, where everyone can expect a warm welcome from volunteers. There is only one in Kidderminster at the Library, and the one in Bewdley has been running for quite a while, and very successfully. We would like to have 3 volunteers each week, so we would love to have you join us, just once a month would be great. Please speak to me or to Rachel if you can help. Many thanks Maureen.



A Special Message from David and Jenny Keeling, which should have gone in February Tidings

Birmingham Women's and Children's Trust

Good Morning Jenny and David,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas.

I am emailing to thank you, your family and your church community for the very kind and generous donation of toys for the babies on the neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and those on Transitional Care. We had a very busy Christmas here and your gifts were gratefully received by all families in their baby's stocking.

Thank you again for your donation.

Best wishes for the new year

Kind Regards, Charlotte Fearn

Lesley Rowe sent us this short article about the church where her daughter in Australia worships.

In one of the sermons that I heard in the church where our daughter and family now worship in Melbourne, it was claimed that in a study of 17 - 19 year olds who had attended church when they were younger, but were still attending regularly in their late teens, the most common answer which was given was when asked, "Why do you still attend church?" was "Because they know my name". It definitely makes you stop and think about how well do we know any of the children who do come to Trinity. (OK I know that it is not many, but do we engage with them when they come, or just with their parents?) Our daughter's church reckons that 25% of its congregations - two on a Sunday morning - is comprised of children and young people, and they realise that they need to make it a priority to see that percentage maintained, and preferably increased.



Be still.....

You don't have to look for anything - just look;

You don't have to listen for specific sounds - just listen;

You don't have to accomplish anything - just be.

And in the looking, the listening, the being - find me.

TUESDAY GROUP

The February meeting of the Tuesday Group indulged in the sport of Curling. This was an entirely new concept to most of the participants, but one that provided much laughter, fun and an element of competitiveness!

Indoor curling does not require an ice rink or indeed any of the hard brushing that we see so often in the competitive sport, just some gentle pushing of the stone with a stick whilst keeping an eye on the target site. You can even sit to play.

Thankyou Lynn for suggesting the event and thanks to Stephen for setting it all out and keeping us on track with the scoring. Incidentally, he won the first prize (a bag of wine gums) for the highest score, no link there of course!! Many failed to score at all, so the booby prize has been rolled over for another event.

At our next meeting on March 4th Shrove Tuesday, we shall be turning our attention to Pancakes, eating them that is, all are welcome.

There is a more serious side to our event, we shall be launching our "Pay a Penny to Spend a Penny" campaign for Lent. Instead of giving something up why not make a positive difference to a charity. World Water Day, March 22nd falls in Lent and we all know that many countries don't have clean water to drink let alone water for sanitation. So, each time we flush the toilet lets place a penny (or indeed a larger coin) in a box and at the end of Lent we can gather the money up and donate it to Water Aid. Other family members can join too, and pennies will come flooding in. Sorry couldn't resist that!

Denise



Stan rose has presented the Baxter Quiz for the last eighteen years, and he is now sharing it in Trinity Tidings

The answers to the quiz are all anagrams

Find the women in the Bible

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| 1. as cord | Acts | 11. zee be l j | Kings |
| 2. me sola | Mark | 12. cab cere | Genesis |
| 3. vast hi | Esther | 13. sus an an | Daniel |
| 4. he rest | Esther | 14. nice bree | Acts |
| 5. ice enu | Timothy | 15. drill asu | Acts |
| 6. arch el | Genesis | 16. dance ac | Acts |
| 7. hop bee | Romans | 17. rode is ha | Mark |
| 8. aim rim | Exodus | 18. hath babes | Kings |
| 9. lil head | Judges | 19. spill cari | Acts |
| 10. hob dear | Genesis | 20. bale he zit | Luke |

The Answers will be in April Tidings

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday, 29th March 5.30pm

Tickets - £8.00, including Fish and Chips

Howard is producing the quiz with a mix of different types of questions

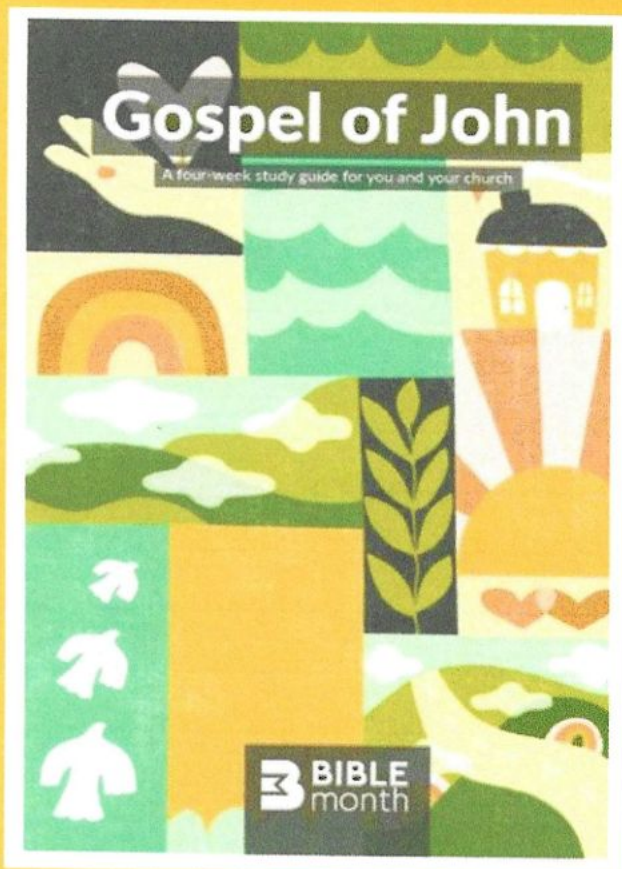
Ask any member of the Social Committee for tickets, and further details.

Come and have fun quizzing!



Bible Month

will be back this October!



Yes, our Circuit will once again be taking part in Bible Month, the annual campaign that celebrates Scripture by inviting the whole Methodist Connexion to *feast* together on one particular book of the Bible. After *Revelation* and *Genesis*, the featured book for 2025 is **the Gospel of John.**

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

FREE COPIES of the Bible Month booklet, including resources for small groups, are available from Mike Dernie mikedernie@aol.com or tel. 07977 063380

STUDY EVENINGS

Why not join your preachers to explore John in preparation for October? Come along to Trinity at 7.30pm on

Tuesday 1st April

Tuesday 6th May

See also: www.methodist.org.uk/BibleMonth

In the beginning was the Word...

I'm sure we're all familiar with the resounding opening words of John's gospel. For many people – including me – it's their 'favourite' gospel, and yet in many ways it is the most profound, and the most challenging.

So it was with mixed feelings that your Local Preachers discovered that the gospel of John is this year's book for **Bible Month**. After wrestling with Revelation and Genesis over the past two years, our first reaction was 'Great!'... and then we started thinking about its depths! But we are up for the challenge – and trust that you will be too.

Most churches run Bible Month in June, but October seems to work best for this Circuit. So, in **October 2025** all the services across our Circuit will focus on John's gospel, with chapters and themes set for each week. And once again we'll be asking everyone to read the chosen chapters before attending that Sunday's service(s).

Thankfully, plenty of helpful resources are available – for individuals and House Fellowship/Bible Study groups, as well as preachers and worship leaders.

There's the **Bible Month booklet**, which is a four-week study guide for preachers and small groups, and includes interactive resources. Please contact me (see below) if you would like a **free copy** for yourself or a number of copies for your group.

Then there's a **Daily Reading Guide**. Split into 30 days of readings, with questions for reflection and space to make your own notes, this aims to equip and encourage you to read through the gospel of John in a month. You can download this from the Methodist web site or order free hard copies (visit methodist.org.uk/BibleMonth).

For those artistic and crafty ones amongst you, there's a **Bible Journalling Kit**. This is a printable resource with keywords and images from the text of John, that you can cut out and stick into your Bibles or journals to help you as you meditate on its message (free download from methodist.org.uk/BibleMonth).

Keep an eye on the Methodist web site for Bible Month animations and videos. And if you are really keen, there's an online **Training Day** on Saturday 15 March. Again, details can be found at methodist.org.uk/BibleMonth.

Closer to home, your preachers will be getting to grips with John's gospel at two **Study Evenings** that are open to all. Join us in the lounge at Trinity at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 April and/or Tuesday 6 May. We start with tea, coffee and biscuits and aim to finish by 9.15pm.

We have found Bible Month to be a rich blessing, and pray that you will engage fully too.

Mike Dernie

Secretary, Local Preachers & Worship Leaders' Meeting
mikedernie@aol.com or tel. 01299 400284 / 07977 063380



CHARITY CONCERT



IN AID OF

St Richard's Hospice

Monday 31st March 7:30pm

*An evening of Big Band Classics, Swing
Jazz and more!*

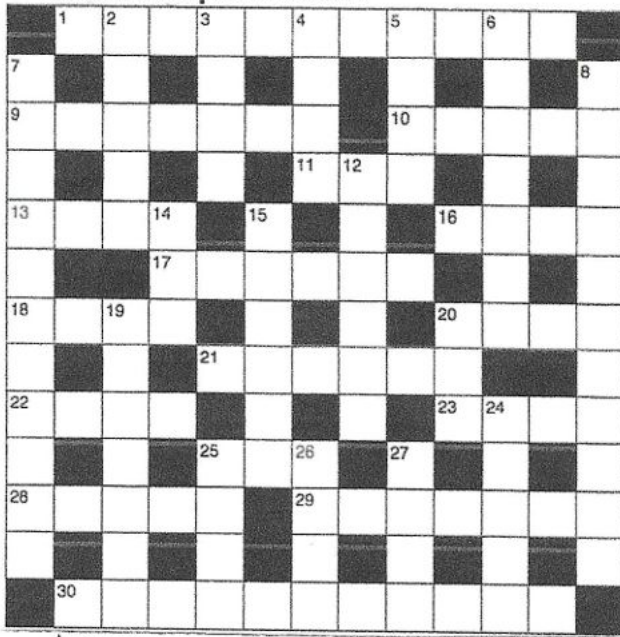
Trinity Methodist Church

DY10 2JL

Entry by donations



Parish Pump Crossword



Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

Sudoku puzzle

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

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Saturday 29th March 2025

at 7.30pm

St Mary's Church,
Kidderminster DY10 2JN

“ROSSINI BELLISSIMI”

*Petite Messe Solennelle
and Opera Choruses*

Kidderminster Choral Society presents a Spring
Concert featuring Rossini's great choral masterpiece
and some favourite opera choruses.

Conductor: **Geoff Weaver**

Harmonium: **Paul Trepte**

Piano: **Mike Elden & Alastair Moseley**

Soprano: **Ellie Oldfield**

Mezzo Soprano: **Karima El Demerdasch**

Tenor: **Dominic Lee**

Baritone: **Hector Bloggs**



Supported by Wyre Forest District Council and
Kidderminster Town Council Community Events Grants



Tickets available online at www.kidderminsterchoralsociety.co.uk

ONLINE TICKETS: Adult Ticket £15 (£14 Concessions), U19 FREE (still book your place)

DOOR TICKET PRICES: All Tickets £17 (£16 Concessions) Subject to availability.



GARDENING NOTES FOR MARCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Bob



Bewdley Methodist Church

Music in the Chapel

**“An Organ Recital
of favourite tunes”**



performed by Andrew Crabtree

Saturday 29th March 2025 at 2.30 pm
Tickets £10 to include light refreshments

To book tickets please contact:
Neil Sollom Tel: 07780 650491 or email: neilsollom@btinternet.com
or Mike Dernie Tel: 07977 063380 or email: mikedernie@aol.com

ANDREW written by Clive Sansom

It was like this: near to Gennesaret
where the hot springs pour their streams into the lake,
and the fish gather like little Romans
to loll in its warmth, though at a hint of danger,
swift as kingfishers in the air above,
flash from the shadows – there one evening
when the sun, sinking behind Tiberias,
brought the far shore closer,
and the water lay calm, unrippled,
and no wind blew.....

It was then, with his own peace, he came.
Simon and I were casting together,
thigh deep in the liquid sunset.
Herod's barge had passed in the distance.
Whirling my weighted net about my head
I watched it fall, open and spread
like the skirts of a dancer
as it sank to the lake floor
I pulled the cord and, the mouth closing,
was dragging it beachward.....There he stood –
Smiling serenely at our surprise –
Jesus, last seen with John the Baptist.
Our dropped nets bulged on the pebbles.
"Come with me.....You will fish for men."
The wild fish, silvered sunlight,
Leapt and writhed in the loose netting.



Jesus, A Portrait

A teacher looks at a boy doing a drawing. "What are you drawing?" she asks. "It's Jesus" replies the boy. "But nobody knows what He looks like", she says. "They will when I've finished this" says the boy. OK, it's an old chestnut, doubt it would make it to Smile Lines. However, it poses a serious question. We just don't know the physical appearance of Jesus. The writers of the 4 Gospels who we rely on for His life story never even mention it. We assume He dressed like all the population of The Middle East for a temperate climate. He definitely wore sandals, hence the washing of feet. Was He a small man? We know Zacchaeus was short because He climbed a tree to see Jesus, but was Jesus also short? He often seemed to preach from a rise in the ground and also from a boat offshore. Was this so the crowd could see Him? Did singer/songwriter Kris Kristofferson guess right?

"Jesus was a Capricorn, He ate organic foods,
He believed in love and peace and never wore no shoes.,
Long hair, beard and sandals and a funky bunch of friends."

Seems this is how we all think of Him.

Many years of His life we just don't know about. We know He was a carpenter and so He must have had some physical fitness about Him. There would have been lifting, carrying, sawing, hammering etc. This would have given Him a muscular body. His hands would have been developed, hands that one day would have been laid on many people. Long hair? Not ideal in His trade, no hair nets in those days. Then suddenly Jesus changes, fit and healthy he starts His mission and becomes a prophet and healer. No training but not just a change of job, this is what He was born for.

Though we may not know what He looked like, we were soon to know what His thoughts were. From an early age He knew where His future lay. When He was 12, He disappeared from His parents on a trip to Jerusalem. They found Him in the temple "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in My Father's house". (Luke 2.49) "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men". (Luke 2.52) In the end it took John the Baptist, His cousin, to set Him up. He baptised Him in the river Jordan. As Jesus was coming out of the water he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. Jesus was on his way to become Jesus Christ Superstar. So what was He? We know nothing of His physical make up, but we certainly know His character. The simple hymn sung at Sunday School says it all, "Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild".

He always had time for people, the down and out, the lonely, the sick, the untouchables. He is all forgiving and all gracious. He took people's lives and turned them around. He is full of holiness, yet burns with compassion. He touches the well and loves the unlovable. He was kind and gentle and most of all the word our English teachers said never to use – Nice. In the end, He laid down His life for us. The greatest sacrifice any man could make. He loved. "Greater love hath no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends". (John 15.13)

So we might not know what He looked like, but the whole world knows what He was.

Mike
(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

Mike's Smile Lines

"Mommy, you know I don't like soap, but you don't have to keep rubbing my face in it".

**

1st Man: Call me a taxi

2nd man: You're a taxi.

**

The police tried to bring a case against a doughnut thief, but it was full of holes.

**

Back in Jesus's time the daily news papers were written on clay tablets – there was a lot of breaking news.

**

Did you hear about the battery that had an alkaline problem? It went to AA meetings.

**

The Chinese restaurant was losing money. The owner worked out he was burning too much electricity, he had too much lighting on, so he decided to dim sum.

**

Why is melted butter no good? It's rendered useless.

**

The school was so rough, when a teacher asked what came at the end of a sentence three boys said "An appeal".

**

Hear about the couple who sent their daughter to a boarding school? Just so they wouldn't have to help her with her homework.

**

It's no good telling politicians to go to hell, they're busy trying to build it for us.

**

Just because you can do something doesn't mean you have to. A man who can play the bagpipes is worshipped because he doesn't play them.

**

What is it with these climate people. We all know that Christmas begins in September.

**

Wife: I'm off to the beauty parlour dear.

Husband: Don't take no for an answer.

**

For all you gardeners; cross a four-leaf clover with poison ivy. You'll get a rash of good luck.

**

I looked up my family tree. I wish I hadn't, it was a weeping willow.

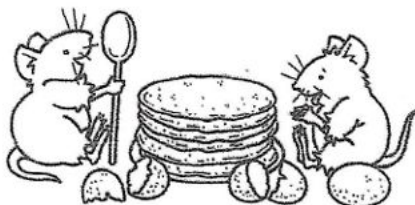
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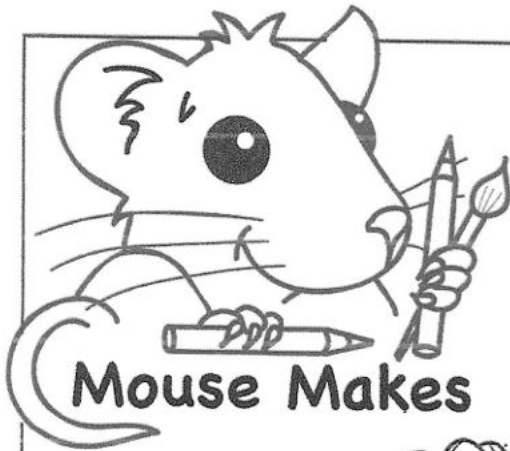
A peach is a suede apple.

**

Can your husband cook?

Let's just say he burns the salad!





THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?



Luke 4:1

For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

Luke 4:2

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

Luke 4:8



READ
the story in
Luke 4:1-13



Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

Luke 4:12

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus?
see Luke 4:14-15



JESUS • LED
WILDERNESS
DESERT
TEMPTATIONS
DAYS • DEVIL
HUNGRY • SON
STONE • ROCK
KINGDOMS
WORLD • GLORY
WRITTEN
SCRIPTURE
WORSHIP • ONLY
SERVE • LORD
JERUSALEM
HIGH • TEMPLE
THROW • DOWN
JUMP • ANGELS
HANDS • HOLD
LIFT • FOOT

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



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the Law of Moses wanted to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.

Teacher, so what must I do to get eternal life?

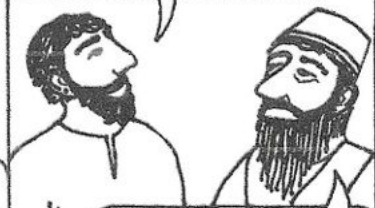


What does it say in the Bible?



Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and Love your neighbour as yourself.

You've got it right.



But who counts as a 'neighbour'?

So Jesus told a story -

A man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho



That's a dangerous road!

He was attacked by robbers who left him for dead.



Oh no!

A priest was walking the same way, and after him a lawyer.



Oh, they are good people, they'd help.

They saw the hurt man but they walked past



I bet it's an ordinary person who helps!

Then a man from Samaria came that way...



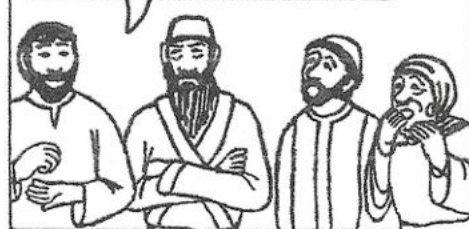
Oh no! We hate them and they hate us Jews! That hurt man is done for!

He felt sorry for the hurt man, and cleaned and bandaged his cuts.



What? No!

He put him on his donkey, took him to an inn, and paid for him to stay.



So who was a real neighbour to the hurt man?



The... the Sss... the one who helped him.

So go and do the same.



5th March – Ash Wednesday, a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

Parish Pump 2025

Bearing fruit takes time

The nine fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. We don't strive for the fruits of the Spirit, rather we plant ourselves in good soil, allow ourselves to be fed by the Holy Spirit, keep taking in nourishment, turn to face the light of Christ and these fruits will develop and grow in our lives.

Can you tell whether a tree is an apple tree or a pear tree? Not easily when they are in blossom, but very easily when they bear fruit. Bearing fruit takes time and a lot of planting, preparation, nurture and growth.

March is the time of year when gardeners begin to plant seeds ready for summer, but patience is needed – the seeds will take a while to germinate, and the gardener needs to write the names of seeds on labels and not forget which are fruit, flowers and vegetables. The seeds need to be in the dark, or the light, or the warmth or the cool, depending at what stage of life they are at.

So too, is God with us. God writes our names on His heart; God knows what fruit we can bring forth. God nurtures us and gives us light to grow. But first, we need to be planted and that can be scary.

Maybe you are feeling in a cold dark place this March, maybe it feels as if you've been buried, maybe you've got a weight above you and you can't see the way out. Just think that maybe you've been buried because you've been planted.

With patience there will be warmth and light, be like a seed, trust God, and begin to grow out of the darkness towards God's marvellous light. We won't see fruit immediately; we have to be nourished and mature and ripen. Patience will be given to us, fruit of the seed of the Holy Spirit.

Parish Pump 2025

Whisper it softly, but many of us prefer instant coffee

In this age of exotic coffee making machines, there are still a good 39 per cent of us in Britain who reach for the instant coffee – and even prefer it.

In fact, a 2024 Kantar report has found that seven million of us happily drink instant coffee two or three times each day.

Nescafe Gold Blend is the UK's leading instant coffee brand, with 4.3 million of us buying it in 2023. As James Chiavarini, patron of the Italian restaurant Il Portico says: "Gold Blend is weak and sweet, and I can drink it all day without the risk of a stomach ulcer."

Parish Pump 2025

Open The Book celebrates 25 years of Bible storytelling

Do you remember hearing your first Bible story? Most of us would have been children at the time. If you had the privilege of hearing them often, those stories would now be a part of you, giving you hope in dark times, and a way to understand the world around you, and a sure sense that the God of the Bible exists. All in all, Bible stories are important to know.

This year Bible Society's Open the Book turns 25. It has seen remarkable progress in getting Bible stories 'out there', to young children right across the world. Open the Book brings the Bible to life through its creative and interactive storytelling approach.

From England to Kyrgyzstan, storytelling teams visit schools and present a ten to fifteen-minute scripted Bible story, designed to be interactive.

Over many years, hundreds of volunteers and creative storytelling teams have shared the ageless stories in thousands of primary schools. They have created lasting memories, sparked the imagination, given hope, taught important lessons, connected generations and touched the hearts of countless young people and their teachers.

Fiona, a member of the Open the Book staff team at Bible Society, says "With 95 per cent of children no longer in church, who else will tell them these powerful, life changing stories and take the word into our neighbourhoods?"

Parish Pump 2025

All in the month of March

It was:

175 years ago, on 5th March 1850 that the Britannia Bridge linking Anglesey and mainland Wales across the Menai Strait was officially opened. Designed and built by railway engineer Robert Stephenson, it had to be replaced after a disastrous fire in 1970.

150 years ago, on 7th March 1875 that the French composer Maurice Ravel was born. Best known for *Bolero*.

100 years ago, on 21st March 1925 that Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh was officially opened.

90 years ago, on 16th March 1935 that driving tests were first introduced in Britain. Three days later, on 19th March, a speed limit of 30 mph in built-up areas was also introduced, under the Road Traffic Act of 1934.

70 years ago, on 11th March 1955 that Sir Alexander Fleming, Scottish bacteriologist died. Joint winner of the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering penicillin 40 years ago, on 3rd March 1985 that British miners voted to return to work after a year-long strike over pit closures and job losses.

30 years ago, on 2nd March 1995 that the 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was arrested for his role in the collapse of Barings, Britain's oldest merchant bank. Four days later, on 6th March, the Dutch bank ING purchased Barings, for the nominal price of £1.

Also 30 years ago, on 26th March 1995 that the Schengen Treaty came into effect in the European Union. Seven nations (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain) eliminated their internal border controls and tightened their external borders.

20 years ago, on 10th March 2005 that Dave Allen, Irish comedian, died.

10 years ago, on 12th March 2015 that Terry Pratchett, British fantasy novelist best known for his Discworld series, died of Alzheimer's, aged 66.

Parish Pump 2025

Parish Pump Smile Lines

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to STOP," he insisted. The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?" "Well, it's not just me," confided the minister. "She is bothering the whole congregation."

**

I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month. Oh, wait, sorry, bad punctuation. I meant, I'm giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.

**

Miscellaneous observations on daily life

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

A healthy adult consumes each year one-and-one-half times his own weight in other people's patience.

A pun is the lowest form of humour – unless you thought of it yourself.

Based on my calculations, I can afford to retire five years after I die.

Birthday cake is the only food you can blow on and spit on, and still everybody rushes to get a piece.

Coffee: starter fluid for the morning impaired.

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

I recently decided to sell my vacuum cleaner – all it was doing was gathering dust.

My dog will eat anything until you put a pill in it. Then he's Gordon Ramsey.

Crossword answers:

ACROSS: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

DOWN: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

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)

Sudoku puzzle solution:

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



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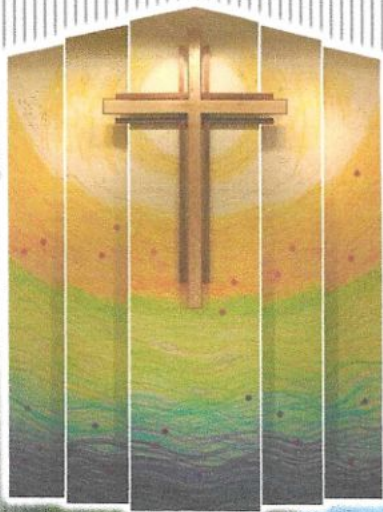
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◆ Trinity Methodist Church ◆



Sunday Services

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

Start the week...

Monday Morning Prayer Meeting

A short quiet time of contemplation and prayer.

Every Monday 9.30am – 10.am

Mid-Week Lunchtime Service at Trinity

Every Thursday 12.30pm – 1pm

Trinity Toddlers Every Tuesday

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

...2025...2025...2025

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2 JL

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

www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk