

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*

September 2026



All are welcome in this place!

Harvest Edition

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

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The closing date for items for the October '26 Edition of Trinity Tidings is
Sunday 27th September 2026

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

Dear friends,

September is a time for transition. Children starting school, ex-students are new jobs, Methodist Ministers new stations, any new decisions from Methodist Conference take effect. The Memorial we sent to Conference will be in the minds of the leaders of the Church throughout the year. The results of Explore will be guiding our decisions and helping us to plan ahead in our Churches and Circuit.

This year there's a new title to adjust to, though I continue to be simply Verity. Labels sometimes serve as barriers instead of descriptions which help us know who to go to about what. Sometimes we expect so much from a label that officers don't last a full term. Sadly, we sometimes hear of media or peer pressure leading to the demise of some, and the death of others due to labels. People with labels are easy targets for criticism! I wonder what labels you carry – and how they help, or hinder.

As the number of ordained ministers in the Church falls and our average age increases, the number of paid lay posts are increasing, and in some circuits this is opening up fresh growth due to fresh ideas or more focussed ways of working. Is God challenging the Church to think differently? How much do the labels matter, how much does clarity help, what enables us work together to the best of all abilities?

Some of his labels for Jesus were constructive (Good Shepherd, The Way, Light and Life ...), some open to misunderstanding (Messiah, Son of God), one pointed to his supposed crime, (King of the Jews).

From August to Advent, the Old Testament readings continue to explore how God formed a people - his People. In October we will explore the letter of Paul to the people of Philippi alongside this. Paul labels the Philippians "holy people", or "saints" (depending on the Bible translation); not perfect people, but followers of Jesus who're working out what it means to be a Christian community. Paul – like the author of Revelation – commends the people of Philippi. Could we learn from them? Make sure you receive your free guide!

Is your Church a 'holy' community of 'saints'? How is this visible to those who live nearby?

In the last Connexional year we identified that we need to be

- **Challenged**, within God's capabilities ... and ours?
- **Thinking differently**, with the same purpose?
- **Working together**, and with wider worlds?
- **Looking ahead**, as well as where feet tread?
- **Growing ourselves**, and growing others?
- **Trusting in God**, beyond believing in God?
- **Listening and adapting**, to younger people/others?
- **Worshipping diversely**, through how and why we are;

... *with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength?*



We gave ourselves a first priority of listening to God, our community, and one another.

How might you meet with others you know and trust in October to listen to God and each other through your study of Philippians, or to listen to your community, or the community which encircle our premises? Do you know someone who would appreciate belonging to such a group but they're unable to get to one – might they welcome discussion with their visitors? This is how the early Christians learned and grew – chatting with friends 'at the kitchen table' and sharing their thoughts and experiences; no labels!

As we go into the new Methodist year, we may need to tidy up some of the ways we do things so that these are clear for the community around us. The public have expectations which can challenge how we work as we gear up for the challenge of a mission which embraces our wider communities as they are. Please support Church Officers as they put things in place.

One change I'm getting used to is having less time for pastoral care than was the case when I started my ministry twenty or thirty years ago. If there's a special need, for yourself or someone you care for, do let me know and get this in my diary. Although I can more than fill my hours, I hope I'm never too "busy" to care; each day I juggle priorities, but if someone says, 'don't come', I will take that at face value, so always ask – the worst I can do is say 'I'm sorry, I can't'.

I hope you'll enjoy the evening services this autumn; from SdW to Moody & Sanky ... let the Stewards know what you would like more of.

Like Paul, I rejoice as I look ahead; it is my privilege and joy to be serving Christ alongside you.

God bless,

Neurospicy Corner – Which senses?

There are many ways in which people vary neurologically. Some are oversensitive to sight or sound or touch or smell or taste, others are under-sensitive. That's not so surprising, really.

Although I was diagnosed as autistic with an oversensitivity to sound a few years ago, I wasn't always aware of being that sensitive to sound. It's as though a head injury in 2011 made this sensitivity more exaggerated, and that's certainly the point at which it became a difficulty. This is a sign that it's nothing to do with my ears, and everything to do with how my brain processes the sound signals it gets from my ears. It's a software problem, rather than a hardware problem, if you like.

Some people, like my mother, can start to go deaf and yet still be sensitive to sound, because what sounds their ears pick up get magnified out of proportion by their brain. The average brain will ignore sounds it doesn't need. Hearing Aids, and brains like mine, can't filter out what is not needed from what is important.

Ear defenders and ear *plugs* create a barrier between the mechanics of your ear and all sound. Sound cancelling headphones and ear *buds* cut out or diminish some sounds such as those at the extremes of long or short wave, while letting other sounds (such as most talking) through. They are not yet as precise as they might be, but they cleverly do some of the filtering which some brains (and some hearing aids) struggle to do. However, hearing aid users, be warned – not all hearing aids are compatible with headphones.

Dyslexia is another example where it's not the eyes that are the problem – they may work perfectly. It's the transmission from eyes to brain which produces distortions such as a dazzle or wave effect where letters and numbers don't keep still. This may be reduced with different colours, or by using a ruler beneath the words. Physio exercises which focus on balance can also help people with neurological perception differences.

Touch can feel like an electricity shock, or less than a tickle, depending how the brain processes it. Smells can be overpowering or nauseating, or be barely detected, depending how our brains process the scent. Eating food is amazingly complex, with a variety of taste and texture input only one aspect of how the brain translates what your mouth, throat, tongue, teeth, intestines and stomach are doing.

I've never forgotten a meal at a Buddhist monastery when I was a student. We ate in silence, thankful for every sensory input throughout the meal – sight, sound, touch, taste, smell, interoception, proprioception, and vestibular perception. Yes, these days we consider at least eight senses, not just five! The psalmist was right: *"I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are your works, my soul knows very well"*. Psalm 138:13 I hope you've had time over the summer to pay attention to your wonderful senses.

Methodism

The method of Methodism began before it really took off as a movement. John and Charles Wesley, among the younger children in their family of twelve, were at Oxford University together, training to be priests in the Church of England. They met regularly with their friends and committed to a "Holy Club", which focussed on regular prayer and Bible study, mutual accountability, and works of piety such as visiting the debtors' prison on a regular basis. Wesley would get up at 4 a.m. for his devotions and Bible study, then have breakfast at the usual hour. The other students mocked the Holy Club's methodical approach to spiritual life by calling them "Methodists". A term of abuse, it became the name of a growing Church.

The "Method" of Methodism is both methodical and democratic. Each year has a pattern starting in September with a District Meeting, then Circuit, then Church Council. Then it's Christmas. Then the pattern goes Church Council, Circuit, District, and Conference. In this way, decisions made at Conference work their way down to the local Church, and queries, challenges or opinions work their way back to Conference, which adapts our Constitution each year in accordance with the wishes of the people called Methodist. The idea is that everyone should have a voice. Whether we use that voice is down to us.

Growing Churches

Recently overheard conversation between the leaders of two growing churches. "What are you doing at the moment?" one asked. "We're getting our governance right before we do any mission", the other replied. "You've got to build on firm foundations, haven't you." They agreed. (See how Jesus ends the sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7: 24-27)

PRAYER CORNER

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

* * * * *

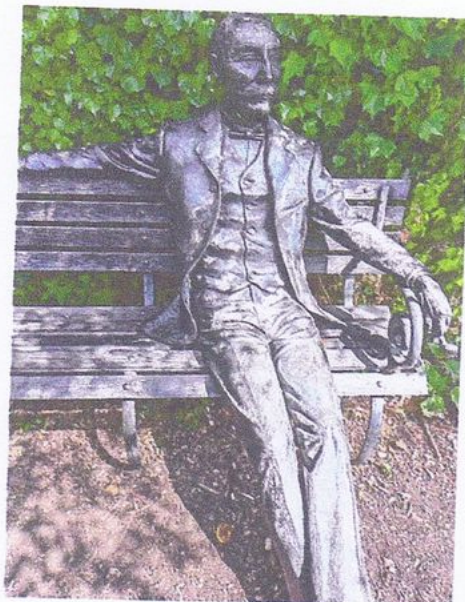
In your prayers during the month of September,
please remember the area of Kidderminster and
the people who live and work there, known
as Aggborough

<u>Aggborough</u>	<u>September</u>
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	

Dear Friends,

A few days ago I visited Sir Edward Elgar's birthplace at Lower Broadheath near Worcester. I love Elgar's music, the short pieces, the two symphonies and his choral works. His work seems to reflect the Worcestershire countryside where he lived for most of his life. He cycled many miles along country lanes, all the time with music in mind. He said 'Music is in the air, take as much of it as you want.'

At the bottom of the garden at Broadheath there is a full sized statue of Sr Edward sitting on a bench with his arm stretch along the back of it. Almost everyone wants a picture sitting by him, with, it seems his arm resting across your shoulders. Some people have said they could feel his presence there. It is an ideal place for him as he loved the countryside and disliked towns.



Another quote from Sir Edward, 'This is what I hear all day, the trees are singing my music. Or have I sung theirs?'

If you ask which is my favourite Elgar piece I would find it difficult to answer. However I love Chanson de Matin, Salut D'amour, Enigma Variations, Symphony No. 1 and Symphony No. 2, the Cello Concerto of course, and I suppose almost everything he composed!

Incidentally I do like lots of other composers too! I will even put up with the fact that he supported Wolverhampton Wanderers!

David

TWO MESSAGES FROM KATE AND ONE FROM HOWARD

Someone once said 'Nothing is better than a picnic' I would totally agree. For me a picnic is far more than just eating outside, it provides a pleasurable state of mind. In fact during the heatwaves I have been having my breakfast in the garden. What a positive relaxing start to the day, rather like starting the week with a prayer meeting.

What a delightful time we had on our small rocky outcrop at Habberley Valley on August 16th. Following such a heatwave the weather was perfect. It was wonderful celebrating the simple joys of nature, good friends and slow living!

Having Holy Communion there was a cherished moment with some old and new friends from the circuit.

Good friends, and great times make the best memories.

Kate

I would like to thank everyone who came to the 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party'. Thank you so much for really embracing the theme with your hats and your lovely donations of food.

The event raised £34, for the Air Ambulance, who along with the hospital staff and many of you kind readers who helped to save Jake's life 18 months ago.

He is at present strongly considering doing talks for the Air Ambulance Service. (He did a wonderful 50 minute talk this spring to the hospital staff from the point of view of a trauma patient). I am sure he could be a great ambassador for them. I will update you as and when, along with any further progress towards Team GB for the Paralympics in 2028.

Kate

WORLD CUP COMPETITION

Thanks to everyone who supported my recent competition. Donald was successful in his 'management' of Spain, who were deserved winners

As a result I am pleased to donate £45 to the Church Project the Worcestershire Prostate Cancer Support Group, such a worthy cause.

Howard



MASKED PARTY



SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2026



7.30PM



BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS



DINNER NOT PROVIDED

~ DRESS CODE: ~

Party dress and a mask!



P.S ~ No Alcoholic Drinks



Christmas MARKET



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

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
KIDDERMINSTER
DY10 2JL

GROTTO ♥ CRAFTS ♥ GIFTS ♥ SMILES
FOOD



Come for the
shopping, stay
for the festive
cheer!



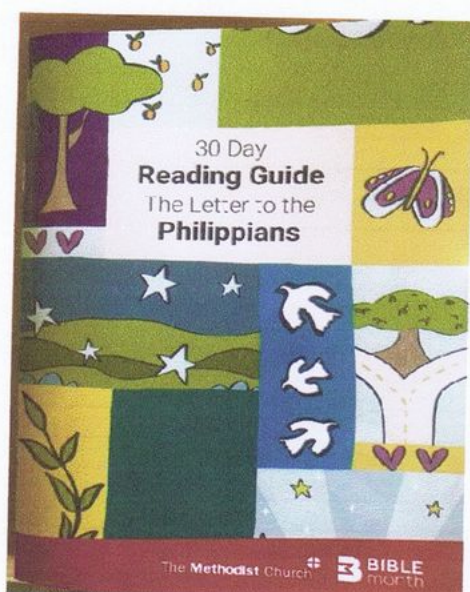
SARAH@COBON.CO.UK

Bible Month - October 2026

Let's explore Philippians together!

In our Circuit, October means Bible Month – and this year Bible Month means Paul's wonderful letter to the Philippians. But this time we're doing it differently by equipping everyone – yes, everyone – with a helpful guide to reading Paul's letter bit by bit, day by day.

Bible Month is a nationwide Methodist initiative and one of the resources made available is a daily Reading Guide to the featured book of the Bible. These booklets are free, so we've grabbed enough to give a personal copy to everyone who attends our services.



In all our services throughout October we'll be focussing on Philippians, the apostle Paul's short letter to the young church in a busy city. The services will focus on successive chapters of Philippians. Every service in our five churches will start with a common Call to Worship and the singing of a specially chosen hymn (a different one each week), so we are all worshipping together, in different places.

There are only four chapters in Philippians, so it's an easy read – especially if taken a verse or two at a time each day. And that's where the Reading Guide comes in.

Copies will be given out in September and everyone will be encouraged to set aside 10 minutes a day to open their Bibles, read a few verses from Philippians and the helpful notes in the Reading Guide, and spend a moment in thought and prayer.

To make sure we're all ready for the first Sunday in October, we'll start reading chapter 1 on the last Sunday in September, the 27th. Then it's one chapter each week, ending on Sunday 25th October.

Reading your Bible in this way might already be part of your daily routine, but everyone being on the same page, so to speak, will make Bible Month come alive in a powerful way.

Any questions?

WHAT ARE WE READING?

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

WHERE DO I FIND IT?

It's the 11th book of the New Testament, coming after the four gospels, Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians and Ephesians.

HOW DO I TAKE PART?

Put aside a few minutes each day to read in your Bible the verse or verses set out in the daily Reading Guide – then think and pray about them in the context of your life. The Reading Guide has helpful comments and hints each day. Don't be put off by the occasional reference to an original Greek word, or the fact that it's based on the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible. Use your preferred printed Bible – or maybe download an online version of your choice to your smartphone or tablet. See www.biblegateway.com

WHEN DO I START? Start reading chapter 1 of Philippians on *Sunday 27th September*. It's spread over 8 days, so aim to read the last four verses before church on Sunday 4th October. Then we move on to chapter 2 in preparation for the next Sunday, and so on. There'll be reminders each week in church notices and newsletters.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? Reading our Bibles daily is good for our souls and our discipleship (and a key element of the A Methodist Way of Life initiative*). To have everyone in our five churches reading, thinking and praying about the same verses each day will help bring us all together – and enhance our worship and the focus on Philippians each Sunday throughout October.

WHO IS DOING IT?

All of us! Don't be left out!

"And this is my prayer: that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight." [Philippians 1, v9; NRSV]

*See www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life

Trinity Methodist Church - Sunday 27th September 2026

Harvest Festival

10.30am Morning Service

led by Rev'd. Philip Wagstaff

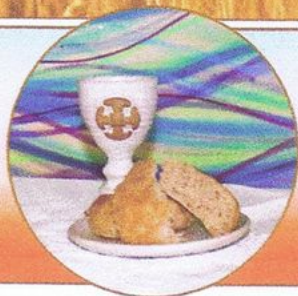
A 'Bring & Share Lunch' to celebrate Harvest will follow the morning service at 12noon.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Foyer.

Please bring Harvest Gifts of tinned and packet foods for the 'Food bank' to the morning service at 10.30am.

Thank you

Please join us & celebrate Harvest!



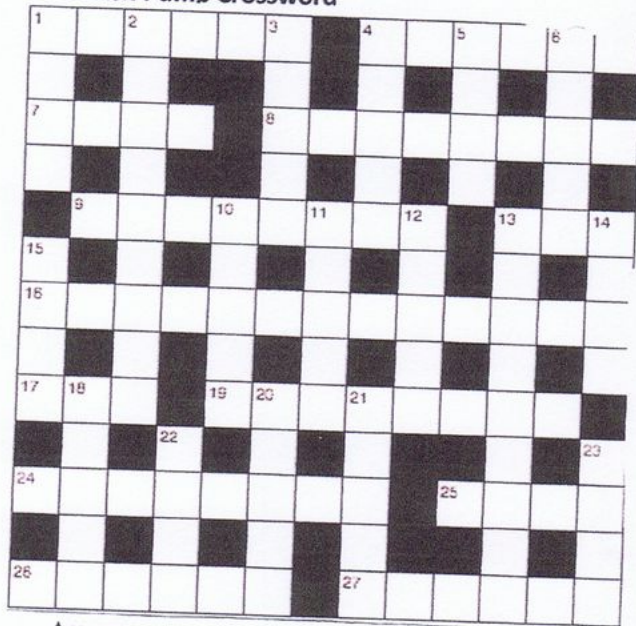
**6.30pm Evening Service of Holy Communion
& Local Preachers Renewal**
led by Rev'd. Verity Phillips

Find the Biblical foods (anagrams):-

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. by earl | Deuteronomy |
| 2. rut bet | Proverbs |
| 3. he see c | Samuel |
| 4. rugs do | Kings |
| 5. reg asp | Leviticus |
| 6. met lil | Ezekiel |
| 7. no is no | Numbers |
| 8. slam nod | Genesis |
| 9. nog pie | Genesis |
| 10. sell tin | Genesis |
| 11. star mud | Matthew |
| 12. rain sis | Numbers |
| 13. ovens in | Genesis |
| 14. crumb cue | Numbers |
| 15. gripe dart | Samuel |
| 16. cap oh it is | Genesis |
| 17. grave in | Ruth |
| 18. con in man | Exodus |
| 19. raider con | Exodus |
| 20. mope grant sea | Numbers |

Stan

Parish Pump Crossword



Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock (Luke 14:29) (8)
- 24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4) (4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten (anag.) (5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
- 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

Sudoku Puzzle

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

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Bewdley Methodist Church

"Music in the Chapel"

The Big Blow Concert

featuring



A Figure of Five

**Performing a varied repertoire of music
from Classical to Jazz and all points between!**

Saturday 19th September 2026 at 2.30 pm

Tickets £10 to include light refreshments

With the Kind Support of

Hayden
Estates

01299 405062

To book tickets please contact:

Neil Sollom Tel/SMS: 07780 650491 or email: neilsollom@btinternet.com
or Mike Dernie Tel/SMS: 07977 063380 or email: mikedernie@aol.com

www.bewdleymethodists.org.uk

We shall Not Grow Old.

One thing that is often mentioned, not at Methodists but at every church whatever denomination, we are an aging population. That's the one thing that stands out. We are over the hill, as some people would say. We have very little left to give physically, spiritually, emotionally and monetarily. Obviously, we need to be solvent, as our treasurer regularly points out, but with our direct giving, various donations and money raising events we survive, and it's us old'ns that keep us going. We know cash is not king – but God is.

I believe very strongly that all us Methodists are faithful and age isn't an issue. God says so. Simon and Anna in the temple were the oldest people but that didn't stop them from celebrating, God was at work. In fact, Simeon is told by God that he would not die before the salvation of the world came about. Seeing Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus in the temple, he realises this is it. Age doesn't matter – worship and a relationship with God is all that is important. You only have to think of Sarah and Abraham, Zechariah and Elizabeth, to know that God does not give up on older generations. It does mean we have to be faithful. Spirituality, worship and prayer are alive in Methodist churches.

Us churchgoers are an ageing population. Well, that's what a lot of people think. But it is not so. Ok, we may not be plugging in electric guitar leads, but we are happy with it. As Cliff and The Shadows said, we will always be "The Young ones". And so it is. In fact, church is not all old people, it is being invaded by young ones, so much the better. Is the music better? Well, an electric band is good, but you have to admit the old ones favour the organ. Let's face it, the old ones support the church more. Be it Woman's Fellowship, Bible Study, Mother's Union and Coffee Mornings. Cake and Jerusalem, that's it. Shopping centres all over the country would close if it wasn't for us old ones serving in the charity shops. By the way, I've got my name down at the BBC if they decide a remake of "Last of the summer wine". There's life in us old one's us yet.

We are all children of God "So you are no longer a slave, but God's child and since you are His child, God has made you also an heir". (Galatians 4 v7) Our identity is Children of God. Old or young. He loves us and accepts us. 'Somewhere' from West Side Story says it all. 'There's a place for us, somewhere, a place for us'. A lovely song. This describes a place where we can all be together. For us older generation the church is somewhere we are all known by name, welcomed just as we are. A place for all, young or old. All are welcome. I remember when I first joined the Methodists, it was the 50's. They had a club, we sang a song.

"Sunshine corner, oh it's jolly fine
It's for children under 99.
All are welcome, seats are given free,
Sunshine corner, it's the place for me"

This was at Foley Park. I think the late great preacher, Ron Bond, had a hand in it. Run by the Methodist Cliff College. So now you have it. All our Methodists are children under 99.

Mike (Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

Mike's Smile Lines

A bloke came over to me and said "I saw you in Eastenders". "How do you get that", I said, "I'm no actor and I've never been in Eastenders". "No", he said "I'm sure I saw you in Eastenders". "Look, I've never been in Eastenders", I said, "you must have been mistaken". "Yes, you're right, "he said" – I saw you in Specsavers.

**

I once booked into a hotel and when in my room I discovered that there was no ceiling. I phoned down to reception and complained. "Don't worry, they said, "the bloke upstairs doesn't walk about a lot."

**

I remember a woman who wore dark glasses all her life. She took a dim view of things.

**

"I told the doctor I kept imagining I was a cricket ball"

"How's that!"?

"Don't you start"

**

Man: Waiter, my soup tastes rather funny.

Waiter: Well, why aren't you laughing?

**

You know when you've seen a shopping centre, you've seen 'em mall.

**

Teacher: You missed school yesterday?

Pupil: Not much miss.

**

Dad: I need to fix a dent in the car.

Son: Why don't we go to the dentist?

**

Q What do you call a deer with no eyes?

A No eye dear

*

A Prime Minister is a person who thinks twice before saying nothing

**

Cinderella was a bad football player – she had a pumpkin for a coach and ran away from the ball.

**

What's the greatest invention? – Venetian blinds. If it wasn't for them it would be curtains for all of us.

**

My parents are crazy. I'm their 5th child. They heard that one in five children born in the world is Chinese, so they called me Chow Mein.

**

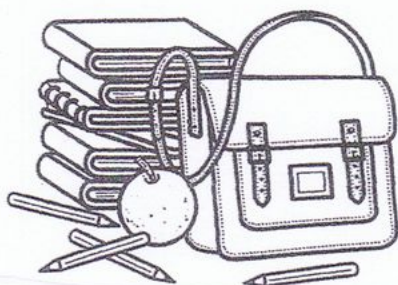
Camelot was famous for its knight life.



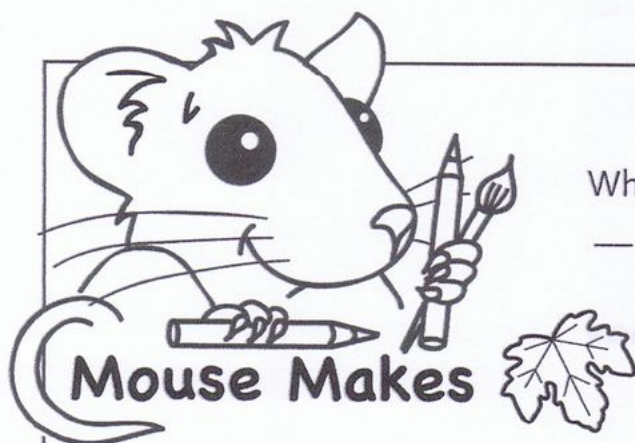
Crossword answers:

ACROSS: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

DOWN: 1, Lose. 2, Blamerest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.



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



THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?

"Go and bear

_____"

John 15:16

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?

Thrown into the

and

John 15:6



READ
John 15:1-17

How many times does Jesus use the word **FRUIT**?

What does Jesus command?

To _____

one another.

John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to **LOVE** one another?

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

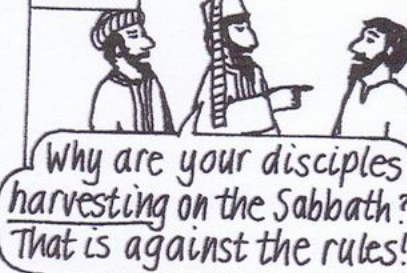
It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.



The Pharisees said to Jesus



But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests*



And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath*



Don't you understand when God says 'keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness'?*



If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out.



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath



Hold out your hand.



...and it was healed!

The Pharisees left and made plans.



Saint Matthew – called just as he was

This month we remember Matthew's call to be an apostle of Jesus and ask what it means for us to follow Christ.

Jesus calls us where we are:

'Jesus saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.' (Matthew 9:9).

It was just an ordinary day at Matthew's tax booth, when Jesus called him. He simply got up and followed! Despite Matthew's past, his occupation and what people thought of him, Jesus still called him. Are we ready to follow when Jesus calls us into a relationship with Himself?

Jesus comes to where we are:

'While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' (10,11).

Jesus went to Matthew's home and ate with tax collectors and sinners, demonstrating that He meets people where they are, despite their sin and shame. The Pharisees avoided sinners, because they believed only the perfect could have access to God. When God is at work in the lives of those we don't expect, allow Jesus to open our hearts to embrace what He is doing.

Jesus comforts us where we are:

'On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill.' (12).

Jesus came to save sinners and to give hope to the hopeless. The Pharisees were so committed to keeping the law, that they had forgotten God's heart of compassion. However, Jesus reminded them that they were witnessing God's love in action. In what ways can we express compassion towards others, especially those outside the community of faith?

Parish Pump 2024

What God won't ask

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask how big your house was, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary was, He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was, He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had, He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.

Parish Pump 2026

Hard Times by David Pickup

There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number, living things both large and small. Psalm 104:25

Do you remember rock? I do not mean the music, but the confectionary sticks sold at seaside resorts. They were pink cylinders about a foot long and an inch wide with a white centre and had the name of

the place in letters. They were covered in film and had a small label with a picture of the place on. It is sometimes referred to now as Rock Candy which does not seem right. They were hard as, well, hard as rock and very difficult to break up to eat. Real teeth breakers.

One source says it started at fairgrounds in the 19th Century, when sugar was plentiful and inexpensive. It was not brightly coloured or lettered in those days, but it was of similar shape and size as it is today.

Ben Bullock was an ex-miner from Burnley, who conceived the idea whilst holidaying in Blackpool. He began producing sticks of brightly coloured lettered candy at his Yorkshire-based sweet factory in 1887. He sent his first batch of lettered rock to retailers in Blackpool, where it was well received. Other sources say a Victorian character by the name of Dynamite Dick, who came from either Morecombe or Blackpool.

It takes a lot of skill to make it. I think it is still available on sale to eat or keep as a souvenir.

Parish Pump 2026

Those new Royal Mail solar-powered digital post-boxes

Royal Mail has converted about 3,500 of the old trusty red post-boxes into digital affairs, out of the 115,000 post-boxes in the country.

The new solar-powered digital post-boxes feature a solar panel roof, a built-in barcode scanner, and an extra-large drawer that accepts parcels up to shoebox size.

The idea is that the solar panels on top capture sunlight to power the digital scanner and automated drawer mechanism. So, then all you have to do is to scan the 2D barcode on your pre-paid parcel label, using the box's scanner to automatically open the large drawer.

The traditional letter slot remains, for regular stamped mail.

As for proof of posting? You use the Royal Mail app on your phone to track and request confirmation when you drop off an item.

If you don't want to download an app or use a printer, the good news is that you can still send your parcels as before, at a post office counter.

Parish Pump 2026

How often should you change your sheets?

Ever wonder that?

When the question was put to various sleep coaches and sheet manufacturers, they came up with a variety of things to consider.

Once a week is thought to be good practise by many, but no more than twice a week, or you risk putting unnecessary wear and tear on your bedlinen.

Do you bath at night or in the morning? It matters, because that determines how much dust and sweat you will be taking to bed with you each night.

Do your pets sleep with you? In that case you may wish to change your bedding more than once a week. They may be leaving the odd flea, tick and certainly some fur in your bed.

Do you have allergies? If they include dust mites, it may be worth changing your bed every three to four days. Allergy UK advises a 60 degree wash to kill dust mites.

And finally, don't rush to make your bed each morning. Instead, pull back the sheets, open the window, and give it some time to air.

Parish Pump 2026

Can't sleep? Could these drinks be keeping you awake?

Sleep experts suggest the following possible suspects:

Alcohol. It interferes with the way your brain shuts down for the night. It can disrupt the deeper, more restorative level of sleep that you need.

Hot chocolate. Here it is the added sugar that is the problem. It gives you an energy boost that you don't need at bedtime!

Tea or coffee in the afternoon. Caffeine stays in your system for at least five hours.

That glass of water by your bed. It will probably wake you up in the night. Instead, consider increasing your liquid intake earlier in the day.

But if you *really* want a drink at bedtime, here are three that might help: Chamomile tea has an antioxidant called apigenin, which promotes sleepiness. Warm milk contains tryptophan, an amino acid that helps produce serotonin and melatonin. And peppermint tea soothes your digestive system.

Parish Pump 2026

Back to School – facing that first Day

No matter how old we are, we can probably remember our first day at school – being left at the door, meeting children we did not know, separated from the adults we did know and had trusted since the day we were born. But on the other hand, there was the excitement: a big step along the road of life, new friends to make, another adult to become important in our lives. Yes, quite a lot to handle when you're rising five!

And that's what hundreds of thousands of children are going to experience this month. Parents may have prepared them for it, and they may in a slightly apprehensive way be looking forward to it, but it must feel to the five-year-old like a massive step into the unknown.

Not much less is the anxiety of mum, who leaves her precious child, proudly resplendent in their new school uniform, in the Reception class-room. Will he or she suddenly panic, and cry for that familiar parental cuddle? Will they feel abandoned in an alien setting? Will they like the teacher?

Of course we'll be praying for them, and we know that like millions of others before them they will very probably eventually decide that their schooldays were among the best of their lives. But end of class can't come soon enough for mum on that first day! How wonderful when they come running out, laughing and excited, clutching a piece of paper with some obscure crayon marks on it – written evidence of their first day's education.

Parish Pump 2026

Pilgrims step out to mark 800 years since death of St Francis of Assisi

A group of Anglican Franciscans are close to finishing a three-month, 800-mile pilgrimage across the UK, to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi.

The 80-day journey began in July in Alnmouth, in Northumberland, and pilgrims have been heading to Hilfield Friary, in Dorset, by September. They will then go on to the convent of the Community of St Clare (OSC), in Oxfordshire, and on to London, to the final destination, the Friary in Plaistow, Newham.

They are due to arrive in time for the global commemorations marking the death of St Francis, on the 2nd and 4th October. The pilgrims will join a service at Christchurch, Blackfriars in Southwark. They have stayed in churches, homes, and parish halls. They will be joined by day pilgrims, and others doing just a short section of the pilgrimage.

More details: pilgrimage800@franciscans.org.uk.

Parish Pump 2026

Stewardship reports highest income year on record

The charity Stewardship, which manages charitable donations from churches, charities, and individuals, has reported that last year was its highest income year on record.

Donations reached £160.9 million, according to its 2025 annual report. That included a one-off gift of £31.6 million. In all, Stewardship says that £134 million was paid out in one million grants to church partners, church workers, and other Christian charities.

Donors include about 4,000 churches and 6,000 charities, as well as thousands of individuals. Stewardship is the main giving partner for Spring Harvest.

Besides grants, Stewardship makes loans to churches and charities towards projects. The value of these loans was £30.5 million last year.

Parish Pump 2026

All in the month of SEPTEMBER

It was:

200 years ago, on 5th September 1826 that John Wisden, British cricketer was born. Founder of *Wisden's Cricketers' Almanac*. Launched with 112 pages in 1864, it now runs to 1500 pages and is the bible of cricket.

175 years ago, on 19th September 1851, William Lever, 1st Viscount Leverhulme, was born. Co-founder of Lever Brothers with his brother James. Now called Unilever, this global consumer goods company operates in more than 190 countries.

90 years ago, on 7th September 1936 that Buddy Holly, the American rock and roll singer and hits was born. Killed in a plane crash in 1959.

Also 90 years ago, on 21st September 1936 that Frank Hornby, British inventor, died. Remembered for Meccano, Hornby Model Railways and Dinky Toys.

Also 90 years ago, on 30th September 1936 that Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire were officially opened.

80 years ago, on 5th September 1946 that Freddie Mercury, Zanzibar-born British rock singer and songwriter was born. As lead singer of Queen, he sold more than 250 million records worldwide. Died of bronchial pneumonia resulting from AIDS in 1991.

65 years ago, on 11th September 1961, that the World Wildlife Fund (now the World Wide Fund for Nature) was founded in Switzerland. Nowadays it is the world's largest conservation organisation, operating in nearly 100 countries with over 35 million supporters.

60 years ago, on 8th September 1966 that the Severn Bridge was officially opened. Linking Wales and England over the rivers Severn and Wye, it carries about 32,000 vehicles a day.

50 years ago, on 5th September 1976 that the first episode of the Muppet Show was broadcast on ITV in the UK. It attracted 15 million viewers and ran for five series until March 1981.

40 years ago, on 7th September 1986 that Desmond Tutu became the first black Archbishop of Cape Town. Retired in 1996.

20 years ago, on 3rd September 2006 that Andre Agassi announced his retirement due to back problems. He was 36, a former world number one in tennis, and the 1996 Olympic champion.

Parish Pump 2026

Remembering Buddy Holly

Ninety years ago, on 7th September 1936, Buddy Holly, the American rock and roll singer, was born Charles Hardin Holley in Lubbock, Texas. His career was cut short when he was killed in a plane crash in 1959 – an event remembered as “the day the music died”.

Holly was raised by a devout Southern Baptist family and was baptised at the Tabernacle Baptist Church in his hometown. His widely recognised talent as a musician and singer led him into the emerging country rock scene, where performers were often exploited by those working behind the scenes.

His influence has been acknowledged by many top singers and guitarists, including Bob Dylan, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton.

The plane crash happened during a poorly organised winter tour of the Mid West where the buses supplied were hopelessly inadequate in terms of reliability and heating. Temperatures well below freezing led Holly to hire a small private plane to take three of them to the next venue. The inexperienced pilot crashed the plane shortly after take-off near Clear Lake, Iowa, killing everyone on board: himself, Holly, J P “The Big Bopper” Richardson, who was given his seat because he was suffering from flu, and Ritchie Valens, who won it on a coin toss.

Holly's pregnant wife Elena heard of his death on the radio, and the shock of it led to a miscarriage. This resulted in the convention of not broadcasting the sudden death of anyone without close relatives being informed.

The disaster was immortalised by singer/songwriter Don McLean, who said he had idolised Holly and felt his death marked a watershed between the innocence of the 1950s and the changes brought about by the Vietnam generation. His song, *The Day the Music Died*, was a long and brilliant solo performance.

by Tim Lenton

Duke of Edinburgh's Award celebrates 70 years: 1956 – 2026

It was back in February of 1956 that Buckingham Palace released a press announcement outlining plans for a trial period of 'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award'.

It was the post-war era, and His Royal Highness wanted to help boys bridge the gap between leaving formal education at 15 and starting National Service at 18. He also wanted them to build self-confidence and a sense of purpose to support them into their future. A youth programme, he believed, would improve their skills and equip them to make valuable contributions to their communities and society.

In 1956, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award pilot was launched to national voluntary youth organisations. It soon expanded to include Local Education Authorities, the Armed Forces and some schools across the UK.

After the first year, 7,000 boys had started a programme and 1,000 Awards had been achieved. Girls were allowed to join the programme in 1958. Since that first year, millions have joined the DofE Award programme.

The DofE continued to evolve, and programmes took on their current format of Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition, and Residential at Gold level in 1980.

In 2020, DofE participants stepped up in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The volunteering efforts of 330,000 young people equated to an investment of almost £8.5 million in a time of need.

The DofE says: "It hasn't been the easiest few years for young people. From the ongoing aftermath of the pandemic to the anxieties of the cost-of-living crisis, the future doesn't always feel certain.

"But, in seven decades of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), we've learnt one thing: never doubt what young people can do. Time and time again, we've seen that when young people are given the chance to prove to themselves what they're capable of, there's no limit to what they can achieve.

"We're here to celebrate and champion every young person. To provide a safe environment of support and challenge that grows as they do.

"Whatever their ability, interest or background, DofE offers young people the chance to strive for achievement, overcome obstacles, and set their minds to a personal challenge. Because when you prove to yourself that you're ready for anything, nothing can hold you back. Our Founder HRH Prince Philip once said: 'There is more in you than you might think.' And, here at the DofE, we help you realise that."

Prince Philip passed away in April 2021, but his legacy thrives thanks to the tireless support of the new Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward.

Parish Pump 2026

Parish Pump Smile Lines

A young clergyman, fresh out of theological training, thought it would help him better understand the world if he served as a policeman for a while before taking on a congregation.

He studied hard and passed the exams; passed the physical; and then came the all-important final interview. One question was: "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?"

He promptly responded, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job.

**

A little boy at Sunday School learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and changed the water into wine. "And what did you learn from that story?" asked his father afterward.

The boy thought for a moment and answered, "If you're having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there."
**

Grandfather talked often about the 'good old days', when the cost of living was much lower. "When I was a lad," he exclaimed, "my mother could send me to the local shop and I'd get some mince, two pints of milk, some bread, some tinned rice and a magazine – all for less than a pound!"

His young grandson protested: "You couldn't do that now. They got those video cameras everywhere you look."
**

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"
**

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday School. As she ran, she prayed. "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

Suddenly, she tripped on the pavement, and fell over, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"
**

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Charles seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Charles, what is the matter?"

Little Charles responded solemnly, "There's a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."
**

A boy was sent by his parents to a private school a long distance from home. He had been strictly enjoined to write home regularly and tell them all about himself and his new life.

At the end of the first week, his first letter arrived: "There are 370 boys here. I wish there were 369."



And this is one from a Welsh comedian called Owen Money, from his book called 'Waste of Money'...

A Pembrokeshire potato went home one day and told her father she was getting married.

"Oh, I hope it's to a King Edward or a 'Royal Jersey' or someone nice like that!" her father said.

"No" she replied "his name is Harry Carpenter".

"You can't marry him," retorted her dad "he's only a common 'tata'".

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.

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Mrs. Jill Green via 07580009755 (between 9am and 5pm)



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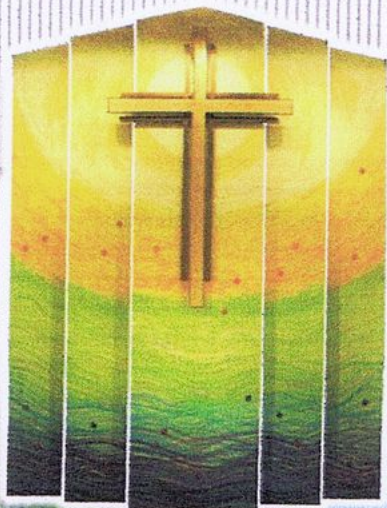
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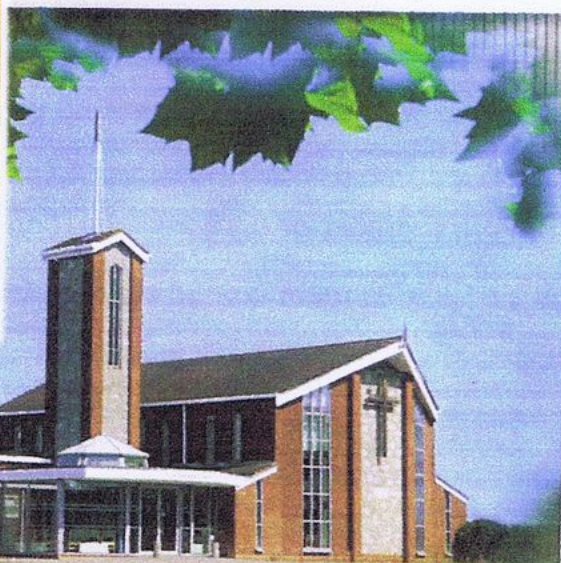
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Sunday Services

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

Start the week...

Monday Morning Prayer Meeting

A short quiet time of contemplation and prayer.

Every Monday 9.30am – 10.am

Mid-Week Lunchtime Service at Trinity

Every Thursday 12.30pm – 1pm

Trinity Toddlers Every Tuesday

10am – 11.30am

Contact:

Mrs Stella Batson - 01562 863503

Rev'd. Verity Phillips - 01562 823300

Trinity Luncheon Club Every Wednesday at 12.15pm

Co-ordinator:

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www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk

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