

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*



All are welcome in this place...

February 2026

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

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

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

Letter from Verity.....

Dear friends,

When I left school, I expected to retire in 2024. Things change, and now my school year are not expected to retire until 2031. Since many have years with no national insurance paid, some choose to work on into our seventies. In 1924, a state retirement age was a relatively new concept; in Britain the first Pensions Acts were in 1908 for over 70s on low incomes, and 1925 for contributory pensions. It's interesting that periods in history which considered retiring people off as less productive correspond to the periods of Empire - and therefore also of slavery. I'm glad I'm not yet written off and I prefer to think we're all useful and productive and valued, whatever our age, even if our bodies and minds begin to slow down a bit.

In the Bible, God seems not to worry too much about age. He calls Abraham, and Moses, Hannah, and Elizabeth, at a ripe age ... and David, Jeremiah, and Mary when they're probably teenagers. We never retire from God's service as Christians - which is why Methodist ministers simply "sit down". There is always the possibility that God may need someone just like us, with just our qualities and opportunities, to fulfil his purposes. What he looks for, more than anything, is faith - the deeper the better. How much will we trust the God who gives us life, who sees and knows and understands all, and who chooses when and where and how to act according to his own wise purposes?

The difficulty for us may be the paradox of God's merciful wisdom, especially when it comes to the Cross. On a common sense level, the crucifixion of Jesus makes no sense. Many innocent people die at the hands of powerful authorities. What is so special about Jesus? This is a theme we explore together during Lent and Easter. Theologians have a range of explanations, drawing from the theology and philosophy of their time. For each of those outlooks, it helps to continue to hold in mind the Christmas message of the incarnation; Jesus was not just an innocent man - he was also God incarnate. God, in whose image human beings were made, experiences for himself the harshness of rejection by the very people who were called to recognise his gracious presence. Instead of responding with vengeance, God responds with loving redemption; human beings discover through this grace which reaches out to heal and transform what is broken, a depth of forgiveness which is spoken of in the scriptures of the Old Testament, but which reaches into our hearts with revolutionary power when we encounter the living Christ for ourselves, and which speaks through our hearts towards others through the working of the Holy Spirit.

This is the God who made us. This is the God to whom we belong. This is the God who will do for us far more than we can ever ask or think ... and probably far more than we will ever fully understand.

We may have many questions. There may be times when we look back and wonder at the journey, and ask ourselves "Why ...?" We will not always find an answer. We may, however, find a resolution through our focus on Christ, and the paradox of his short life, his death, his resurrection, and the assurance of eternal life which this and the ascension affirm. Above all, we find in opening our life to Christ that age takes on a fresh perspective. The eternal life of Christ is already begun in the hearts of those who love him. God asks of us that we be open to the challenges and opportunities which that life brings, for better or worse, whether employed or set aside ... all is for Jesus, who loves us.

Verity

Trinity News:

On Sunday 1st March we welcome a son and daughter into the family of the Church by baptism. We will promise to provide a community of faith in which they may grow as Christians.

Please pray for them and for their parents, for their godparents, and for all young families connected with the Church as they try to juggle family life, work, personal interests, and faith.

We also pray for a couple worshipping with us who look forward to their wedding day in the autumn.

We hold those who grieve for those they have dearly loved who have died during the winter months in our thoughts and prayers, remembering the promise of resurrection joy which lies at the heart of our faith, and trusting in the faithfulness of a God who will never leave us or forsake us.

Membership

A weekend course is expected to start in March, covering "Creator, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Bible, Prayer, Belonging and Methodism." This will be open both to those wishing to become members and existing members. Those transferring from another denomination will be welcome to any or all sessions.

Please contact Verity as soon as possible if you are interested, indicating whether you would be able to meet on Saturday mornings, Saturday late afternoons, or Sunday afternoons - or none of these. A course starting in March should enable those attending to be welcomed as members in their local church in May or June - or possibly at the Circuit Celebration on Pentecost/Wesley Day, 24th May.

Dates for the diary:

21st February – Foundation Safeguarding training at Trinity: see the poster, and book now.

28th February – Circuit Mission Day for Explore 4 "Dream Dreams"

We are delighted to welcome the District Mission Team on Saturday 28th. They will be bringing some inspirational information about the ways in which the District and Connexion can help and support churches in their mission. It is thought this may take the form of a short introduction before and after lunch, with a number of stalls representing different aspects of mission:

Mission today might carry labels like Pioneer, New People New Places, Church at the Margins, Faith Rooted Community Organising, Evangelistic outreach, Property projects, ... or something quite different. There are various resources, ... and various sources of funding, ... which might suit the needs of your church? Come and consult those who know more about what's 'out there'.

A poster is being prepared. It's expected the day will start at 10.30 and finish no later than 3 p.m. - including lunch, which may be packed, or bring and share - again, this is to be confirmed.

18th April – Circuit Explore Vision Day More details in the March and April edition.

The **Methodist** Church  Kidderminster & Stourport Methodist Circuit

Circuit Explore

Mission Day...

The Future...

Independency...

Circuit Merger...

Bewdley

Stourport

Areley Kings

Foley Park

Kidderminster

Saturday 28th February '26

10am – 2.30pm

Trinity Methodist Church

Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2JL



Bring your Church Explorations and be inspired by discovering ideas and resources from District & Connexion.

Talks, Stalls, & Advice from District Mission Officers

Opportunity to meet and get to know others in the Circuit..



Bring a packed lunch! Teas & Coffees provided.

PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz Potter, Betty Norman, Josephine and Ranzi Seremwe, Maureen Homer, Anne Wix, Audrey Connolly and family, those whose names are written in our Prayer Book and people we know who need the love, comfort and the knowledge of Christ's presence with them.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to BETTY NORMAN who has just celebrated her 100th Birthday.

We send our best wishes, our love and our prayers.



Larkhill

February

St Mary's Church

Trinity Methodist Church Centre

St Mary's School and Nursery

Kidderminster Mosque

Retail Properties

Residential homes (including the new housing development and those families moving in)

Orchard Street Sheltered Accommodation

During the month of February,
please remember in your prayers,
the people and places in
the area of Kidderminster
known as Larkhill.

CREATING SAFER SPACE



Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

FOUNDATION MODULE 2024 TRAINING

This training will support you to understand

- **what** to do if you identify a safeguarding concern
- **how** you should respond to the concern
- **why** you need to respond
- **who** you need to share your concern with
- that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility – including **yours**

at Trinity Church, Kidderminster
Saturday 21st February 2026
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Please bring a packed lunch; teas/coffees provided

ADVANCE BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

jenny.safeguarding25@outlook.com

Unfortunately, materials/certificates are issued only to those who have booked.

From the Editor...

When you read this we shall be in February, with one month of 2026 already gone. The huge Christmas marquee has been dismantled and taken away, the portable toilets have gone to wherever portable toilets go to. The station yard has been swept clean and all is back to normal. Only one thing is missing – trains. There are no trains until February half term and this gives time for engines to have a thorough inspection, carriages to be deep cleaned, and most importantly work to be done on the track. So it is quiet, and apart from the occasional walker there is no one about. When we had a covering of snow a few days ago it was interesting to see how busy the station was. There were several bird, rabbit and muntjac deer footprints which seem to meander everywhere. The hellebores are beginning to be in flower, and there is one in a sheltered spot which is an ^{un}usual purple colour. The bank of snow drops is making a welcome display, and the daffodils are growing well.

My bird feeders are well patronised, but sadly the number and variety of birds is much fewer than it used to be. There is a pair of tawny owls around and their cry sounds quite mournful at night. I am sure that you, like me, look forward to the spring days when the sun will have some warmth in it. It will soon be time to fork over the vegetable patch, and decide what to plant this year. Are there any plants that rabbits won't eat, or do I need a shot gun?

David



CREATING SAFER SPACE Safeguarding Training Foundation Module at Trinity on 21st February 2026

Required Attendance

- Presbyters (including supernumerary ministers) with an active preaching or pastoral ministry *
- Deacons with an active preaching or pastoral ministry *
- Pastoral visitors
- Anyone in a paid employment or voluntary role which includes leadership in The Methodist Church involving direct work with children, young people, or vulnerable adults. *
- Anyone working with children in the name of the church
- Anyone working in activities targeted at adults who are vulnerable (e.g. luncheon club for the housebound)
- Circuit stewards *
- Church stewards
- Local preachers *
- Worship leaders *
- Church and circuit safeguarding representatives *
- Choir/music group/drama leaders – where there are children or vulnerable adults in the group.
- Young Leaders (ages 16-18)

Warmly invited but not mandatory

- Leaders of other organisations, working with children or vulnerable adults, who use church premises
- Remaining Choir/music group/drama leaders
- Any other group leaders within the church, who may have adults who are vulnerable within their group.
- Property stewards and other key holders
- Caretakers/custodians
- Church and circuit meeting secretaries
- Church and circuit administrators

* Renewing Training

The requirement to renew training every four years will only apply to the highest level of safeguarding training undertaken by any individual.

If the highest level of training is Foundation Module then a repeat of this module is necessary after four years.

If the highest level of training is the Advanced Module (those starred) the Advanced module should be taken (having previously completed the Foundation Module at any time in the past five years), and it is then the Advanced module which is renewed every four years.

Those not starred are warmly invited to take the advanced course following the Foundation course, and it is then the Advanced course which would be renewed every four years.

Recognition of Church of England Training

The Methodist Church recognises the Church of England Foundation Module (previously called C1) as equivalent and qualifying training to the Foundation Module. Therefore, those who have undertaken that Church of England course will have satisfied attendance requirements listed above in the Methodist Church.

OFFERTORIES FOR THE TEN WEEKS TO 25th JANUARY ARE AS FOLLOWS

	Envelopes	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
23.11.25 & 30.11.25	167.00	221.00	1469.60	1857.60
07.12.25 & 14.12.25	153.00	190.00	1733.00	2076.00
21.12.25 & 28.12.25	521.00	262.50	1733.00	2516.50
04.01.26 & 11.01.26	243.00	205.00	1733.00	2181.00
18.01.26 & 25.01.26	263.00	275.00	1733.00	2271.00

This is a weekly average of £1090.21

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

Over the Christmas period the following amounts were raised for good causes and have been paid over:

Kemp Hospice	£646.00 (including cheques for £200 made out to Kemp).
Action for Children	£328
Concert for church project	£315

The amount paid to Worcestershire Prostate Cancer Support Group (our church project) was £800 which included the £315 from the concert plus funds already in hand.

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 st	10.30am	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Mr Mike Dernie
Feb. 8 th	10.30am	Dr Ken Mothersdale
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Café Worship
Feb. 15 th	10.30am	Rev James Hamilton -- Holy Communion
	6.30pm	David Skitt -- Praise Service
Feb. 22 nd	10.30am	Mr Ray Simpson -- First Sunday in Lent
	6.30pm	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion

THURSDAY, 12.30pm

Feb 5 th	Deacon Becky
Feb 12 th	Rev Verity Phillips -- Holy Communion
Feb 19 th	Rev Matthew Strong
Feb 26 th	Mrs Mary Green



QUIZ

Join us for a fun evening

QUIZ NIGHT

Enjoy a fish & chip supper while testing your knowledge.

**Saturday 7th
February
5pm**

Book with Sarah Andrews
£10

Bring your own non-alcoholic drinks

Two Messages from Howard.....

TUESDAY GROUP

The next meeting of the Tuesday group will be on February 3rd at 2.30pm.

When we will enjoy a game of skittles in the church hall. Hopefully, as with curling it should be a lot of fun. Shortly we will plan our programme for the next six months.

Thank you to everyone who has already supported the group, any ideas for future meetings are always appreciated.

QUIZ NIGHT

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the last quiz we had. This year's quiz hopefully will be a lot of fun with a good mix of topics, picture rounds, jokers etc.

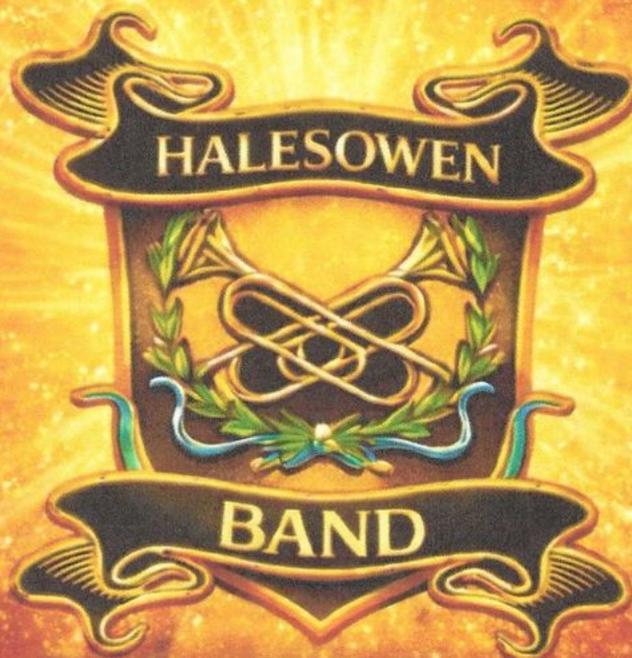
We will enjoy a fish and chip supper in the interval. We look forward to seeing you, so get your bookings in!

We'll have some small prizes, and maybe one for the most ingenious team name!

Teams can be up to six people, why not see who would like to be in your team.

Good luck!!!

An Evening of Brass



Conductor: Chris Cobon

Friday 17th April 2026
7.30pm

Trinity Methodist Church
DY10 2JL

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

Trinity's 50th Birthday!



Friday 13th March
6–8pm

Paid in advance to
Sarah Andrews or
Rachel Cobon

£5 per person

Paid in advance to
Sarah Andrews or Rachel Cobon



Come and Celebrate!

Lasagne
(veg option)
Birthday Cake
Soft Drinks
Party Games



Rooms Available to Let at Foley Park Methodist Church (DY11 6LD)

Foley Park Methodist Church has a range of rooms available to hire on an hourly basis — ideal for community groups, clubs, classes, meetings, and activities of all kinds.

 **Various room sizes** to suit small gatherings or larger groups  **Flexible hourly bookings**  **Convenient location in DY11 6LD**  **Accessible facilities**  **Kitchen access available (by arrangement)**  **On-site parking**

Whether you're running a weekly group, hosting a one-off session, or looking for a welcoming space for your organisation, we'd love to support you.

 **For enquiries or to check availability, please contact:**

David Warrington tel: 01562 742373

email: bigdave147_1999@yahoo.co.uk

A Quiz from Stan Rose. These are all anagrams of Winter and Spring flowering plants

1. an spy
2. occurs
3. had pen
4. love it
5. a notice
6. jam sine
7. llama ice
8. climates
9. man cycle
10. china thy
11. amnia hos
12. promiser
13. quail I age
14. belle shore
15. lunches yoke
16. haunch in most
17. chalet whiz
18. peak puller
19. heather twin
20. awe mites will

Maureen Lewis sent us this photograph, and she says 'This was the first 'photo we managed to take using our telescope. It was at Morcambe last year. We watched it fly down, pick up a fish and bring back to its perch to swallow it.



Parish Pump crossword

1		2		3		4		5		6		
7				8								
	9			10		11		12		13		14
15												
16												
17	18			19	20		21					
			22									23
24								25				
26												
							27					

Sudoku nuzzle (easy)

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

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- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
 4 Belief (5)
 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

GARDENING NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

With the winter solstice of December 21st now well behind us, the sun is on a daily climb up towards the equator for the spring equinox on the 21st march. Hours of daylight will be lengthening from now on and the sun's strength will be growing in intensity, although it is often the end of February before we appreciate that 'first warmth' in prolonged sunshine.

February can be a very variable month weather-wise, sometimes wet, often very dry. If characterised by anti-cyclonic conditions, February is often cold and settled. The words 'Scandinavian High' from the lips of a meteorologist is not something any horticulturalist wants to hear. An anticyclone positioned over Scandinavia can be very slow moving, often remaining stationary for weeks on end, a bitterly cold and frequently strong easterly breeze bringing air directly out of the Continent or Western Russia. Any precipitation falling out of the sky will be of a wintry nature, with the threat of more significant snowfall to southern Britain should low pressure attempt to push milder air into 'the mix' as it approaches from the south. Frost, under clear skies and light winds within a mid-winter area of high pressure, can be severe and intense - precautions must be taken to limit the damage.

If, however, the 'throw of the dice' is completely different and mild, wet and unsettled conditions predominate, plants in the garden respond with growth and an early sign of spring. Personally, I'd go for somewhere in the middle, preferring to protect now rather than seeing soft growth which could get 'clobbered' by spring frosts later on.

When the weather conditions are favourable, and the ground is in a fit state to work on, it is still okay to plant out within certain limitations. If the weather has recently been windy please do check newly planted subjects for the effects of any loosening by wind-rock or frost action, re-firming where necessary.

Later in the month it may be possible to prune back summer flowering varieties of clematis. A 'hair-cut' back to a foot or so above the ground to within two strong buds on recent growth will be fine. After winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) has flowered it should be pruned back to keep it tidy and encourage new growth.

Containerised roses may be planted out if the conditions allow, but don't even think about it if the soil is waterlogged, dry or frozen solid. If you haven't already done so, clear away all remaining dead foliage of herbaceous plants as soon as possible. As mentioned earlier, plants will be responding to increasing light levels and the gradual warming of the soil with Spring-flowering bulbs emerging. Winter-flowering subjects prominent this month include:- *Daphne mezereum*, *Garrya elliptica*, Mahonia, cyclamen *coum*, crocus, *chinodoxa*, *Iris reticulata* and muscari, to name but a few.

Witch Hazels (*Hamamelis*) are wonderful for mid-winter colour and delightful fragrances, with some varieties having the added advantage of spectacular autumn colour. Being fully hardy in all but the severest of winters, Witch Hazels are ideal for medium and larger sized gardens. Requiring a moderately fertile, moist but well drained, acid to neutral soil, they are adaptable to either full sun or partial shade, but do avoid aspects that are windy or exposed. A couple of my favourites include:- *H.x intermedia* 'Arnold Promise', a beautiful bright yellow flowered variety, *H.x* 'Pallida' which produces clusters of large sulphur-yellow flowers. All the *intermedia* varieties tend to be 'V' shaped with upward ascending branches and have delicate fragrances from flowers carried on bare branches. If you prefer something a bit darker then choose *Hx intermedia* 'Jelena', which bears coppery-orange coloured flowers and has good autumn hues. Get planting!

Bob.

What's another year?

There's a new day dawning, at least there is for Trinity Tidings, and of course a New Year for everybody. 25 years already have gone in the new millennium, already a difficult time for the church, who could believe, as we start the next quarter, we would have a female Archbishop of Canterbury. We survived covid but who was the idiot who closed our churches, first time for over 800 years, but we plodded on. One thing we did get was a few new hymns, Stuart Townsend and Keith Getty gave us "In Christ alone", certainly 'Top of the Pops' for the church. Don't worry, they have a long way to go to hold the tailcoats of Charles Wesley, but a brighter dawn is breaking and Earth with praise is waking.

Trinity Tidings will give you the chance to open your eyes in 2026. "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people". (Ephesians 1 v.18). It is part of church life along with prayer groups, fellowships, Girl Guides, etc. The Tidings helps to put humour into your month, gentle reading away from sermons. It is our daily bread. Why not sit in the luncheon club and read your Tidings. Great tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy. That good they wrote it twice, like "New York, New York". Course, we're not in the same league as the Salvation Army. Great excuse to go to the pub on a Saturday night to buy 'Young Soldier' and 'War Cry'. Was that the only place that they sold them? Magazines are the backbone of many institutions, like The Tidings helps Trinity along. One more step along the road of Methodism. There should be something in it for everyone to enjoy, another way to help get the message through. At the end of the day, it passes the time.

Prayers are never asked for Trinity Tidings but it should be remembered in our prayers. Trinity Tidings is the P.S. to all readings and sermons. It is part of the church's buildings and is part of the contributions to the work of God's Kingdom. Of course, we have Smile Lines, a big part of the Tidings! It is said there used to be humour in the Bible but it was taken out in case it embarrassed preachers and ministers! Ah Well, smile along with Trinity Tidings. Thanks to our editors The Tidings rolls along, so you should enjoy them. What's another year but tidings from God?

Mike

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

All Hail the Power

Do you remember those £9.50 holidays they used to give away in The Sun newspaper? Well, my wife and I bought one. A four-day weekend or 5-day Mon-Fri. (All inclusive – those were the days!) Well, the wife and I went on one once, I think it was to Pontins in Brean and we got a wonderful welcome "All Hail the..... Power" was what we were greeted with. OK, so "Jesus's name was missing but who cares, it's the thought. OK, we're here for a wonderful 5-day holiday – in the middle of a wonderful religious convention. "All Hail the Power" was shouted every time we went out. What could be better. I walked the streets shouting "All Hail the Power". I was at home, the fact that the wife wailed on the other side of the street didn't matter. "All Hail the Power" I shouted.

Sadly, it wasn't a religious festival, it was the British Darts Championship. The Power was a nickname; all dart players have them. It belonged to Phil (The Power) Taylor, 16 times World Champion, what can be bad about shouting "All Hail the Power"? We should do it in church more often. I regret now I didn't buy the T-shirt. Hear the words Paul gave to the Philippians: "Rejoice in The Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near, do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have

learned or received or heard from me – put it into practice, and the God of peace will be with you”
(Philippians 4, v.4-9)

Be encouraged by the words that Paul gave to the Philippians. Go out and spread The Word, not perhaps by shouting “All hail the Power”, but you know what I mean. Bring people back into an awareness of Godly living. Now let’s finish with the last verse of “All Hail the Power”

*“Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall,
Join in the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!”*

Mike

Mike’s Smile Lines

He did so want to become a man of letters, so every day he ate alphabet soup.

**

A teacher was telling off a little boy for making faces. “When I was a little girl” she said “I was told that if the wind changed my face would stick like that”. “Well,” said the boy “You can’t say you weren’t warned”.

**

2 musicians were walking down a street. One says “Who was that piccolo I saw you with last night?” The other replies “that was no piccolo, that was my wife”.

**

In old England it was the custom of the heir to the throne to wear a fancy collar known as a ruff. One prince decided to make a name for himself by wearing a fancy ruff. This blocked his vision and he often fell over. This proves that a dandy ruff causes falling heirs.

**

Did the shepherds in the fields drive down to see the baby Jesus? Well they had lambdrovers.

**

In marriage two wrongs can make a riot.

**

What dance did the Mayflower pilgrims do – The Plymouth Rock.

**

Vandals destroyed all the traffic signs recently – they pulled out all the stops.

**

A musician who got a job with a band on a cruise ship was having a problem keeping time with the rest of the band. Finally, the Captain said, “if you don’t learn to keep time I’ll throw you overboard – it’s either sync or swim”.

**

A cosmetic surgeon knows how to raise a few eyebrows.

**

A teacher was teaching the class about whales. “Although they’re large, their throats are very small – they could not swallow a human being. “But” said a little girl “Jonah was swallowed by a whale.”

“Impossible” said the teacher. “Well,” said the girl “when I get to heaven I will ask Jonah”.

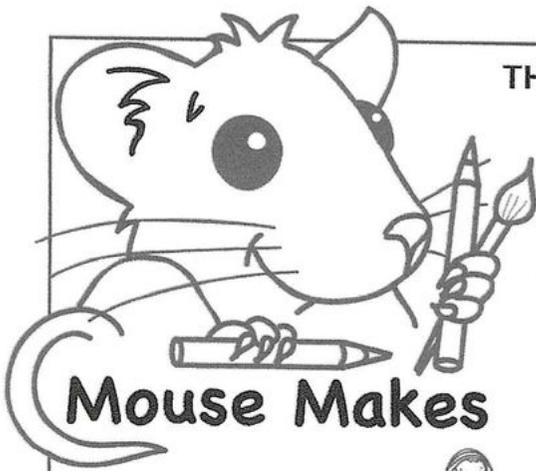
“Ah,” said the teacher, “what if Jonah goes to Hell?” “Well, you can ask him!” she replied.

**

Did you hear about the cannibal who got married? At the reception he toasted his Mother-in-Law.

**

As a young nurse I was nervous about giving vaccinations – but I gave it my best shot.



Mouse Makes

Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible

Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

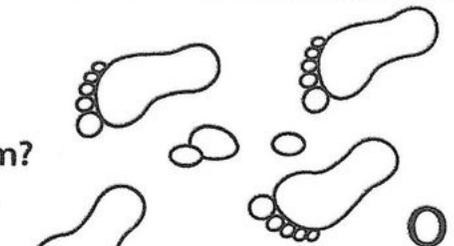
Put God first

Worship only Him.



What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9



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



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

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, trust

Him do not test Him.



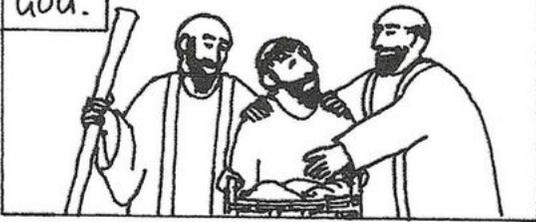
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

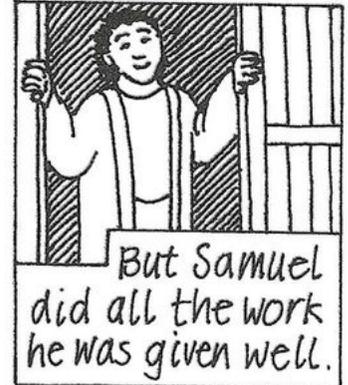
It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli..

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.

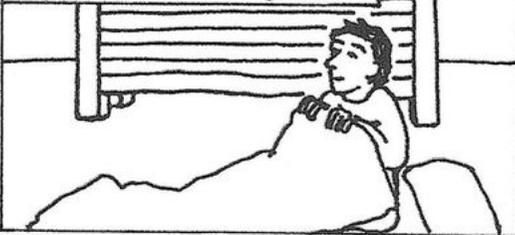


Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.

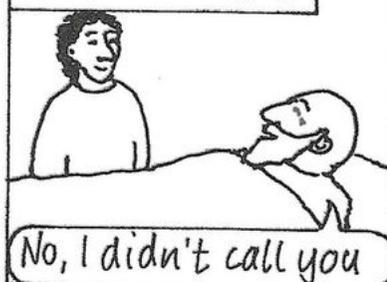


But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



No, I didn't call you

It happened again.



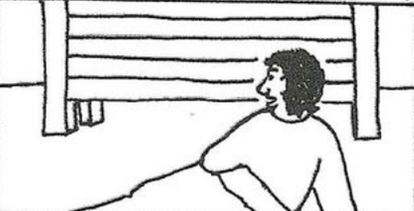
I didn't call. Go back to bed.

The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,

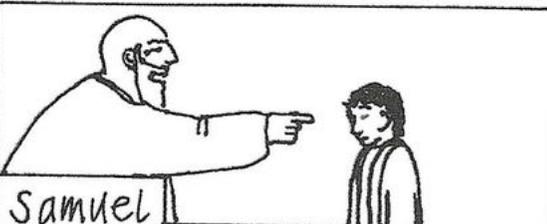


and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.



The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.



Remembering the work of L S Lowry

Fifty years ago, on 23rd February 1976, the artist L S Lowry died of pneumonia. He was known primarily for his bleak industrial landscapes of north-west England, populated with matchstick men, but he also painted original and striking seascapes and impressive portraits.

Laurence Stephen Lowry was born on 1st November 1887 in Stretford. His father worked for an estate agent and his mother was an organist, playing at the local church. Laurence went to Sunday school, but as life later turned difficult, his faith became shadowy. After leaving school he became a rent collector for the Pall Mall Property Company and stayed there until his retirement in 1952. This led to some dismissing him as a 'Sunday painter'.

Lowry's life was restricted by his family debts and his mother, for whom he took responsibility after his father died. He tried hard to please her, but she showed no appreciation for the quality of his art, looking instead for a middle-class respectable life. He became a solitary figure and never married. Lowry remains popular as an artist, with many imitators, but he never formally taught or gathered a group of followers around him. He holds the record for rejecting British honours—five, including a knighthood (1968). A collection of his work is on display in The Lowry, an impressive purpose-built art gallery on Salford Quays.

During his life he made about 1,000 paintings and over 8,000 drawings. His works often sell for millions of pounds. Buried in Manchester next to his parents, he left an estate valued at £298,459, plus artwork, to Carol Ann Lowry (no relation), whose family he befriended when she was 13, after she asked for help with her own development as an artist.

Parish Pump 2026

The Winter Olympics returns to Europe

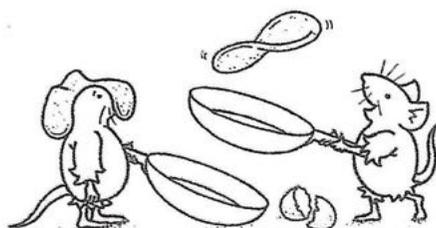
If you like snow-sports, you are in for a great month. From 6th to 22nd February, Italy will be hosting the 2026 Winter Olympics, officially known as Milano Cortina 2026. The opening ceremony is at football's famous San Siro stadium. The Paralympic Winter Games follows, from 6th to 15th March. For the first time the Winter Games will have two host cities, Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, with events spread across 15 venues in northern Italy, using existing infrastructure to reduce costs. (Thus, Milan will host indoor events like hockey and figure skating, while Cortina hosts alpine skiing and snowboarding.)

Around 3,500 athletes from more than 90 countries are expected to compete for 195 medals across 16 Olympic disciplines. New this year is ski-mountaineering.

Snow gets an occasional mention in the Bible. Job tells how God "Says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth' ... He stops all people from their labour. The tempest comes out from its chamber, the cold from the driving winds. At His direction they swirl around over the face of the whole earth to do whatever He commands them."

Let's hope that the snow does a good deep swirl around Italy this month.

Parish Pump 2026



Peaceful mind

The Bible tells the story of Jesus and His stressed disciples in a boat in a storm. Like them, we also get hit by storms in life. And like them, we can know that Jesus is also with us. Why not take a moment to ponder these promises:

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken. (Psalm 55:22)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 6-8)

Parish Pump 2026

Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day – 9th February

It's odd, really, to think that that confessing one's sins to God should be linked to making pancakes. And yet the beginning of Lent brings us both – Shrove Tuesday is Pancake Day, and is followed by Ash Wednesday, and so Lent begins.

In centuries gone by, the pancakes were made to use up the milk and eggs before the fasting of Lent. More recently, many readers will have childhood memories of the wonder of watching our mothers break an egg, mix it with milk and flour – and out of that gooey mess, to produce a light and delicious pancake.

These days, more of us buy pancake mix, or even ready-made pancakes. It seems we prefer the certainty of ending up with pancakes – to the risk of having made nothing BUT a mess of the kitchen. In many parishes they used to hold pancake races on the day. Why anyone would want to run around a field while holding a pancake is not clear, but in Olney, Bucks, they have held a pancake race almost every year since 1445.

Parish Pump 2026

Five good reasons to eat Greek yoghurt

Real live Greek yoghurt is seriously good for you. Its protein and live bacteria have been linked to stronger muscles, boosted gut microbiome, and better heart, bone and brain health.

Greek yoghurt is high in protein, with up to 10g of protein per 100g. That's about double the protein of low-fat yogurt or Greek-style yogurts. What's more, it is a 'complete' source of protein, with all nine of the essential amino acids that our bodies can't make by themselves.

Greek yoghurt boosts your gut health. Its natural probiotics encourage a wider array of beneficial bugs to live in your gut. That means less inflammation, and probably fewer cancer-causing chemicals. Greek yoghurt contains the minerals potassium and magnesium, which can help to both support and regulate blood pressure.

Greek yoghurt provides calcium. This can contribute to greater bone density and even re-build bone tissue if we are older or have been injured.

Greek yoghurt includes the B vitamins – thiamine (B1), riboflavin (B2) and cobalamin (B12). These help support memory, critical thinking, and our problem-solving skills.

Parish Pump 2026

All in the month of February

It was:

175 years ago, on 1st Feb 1851 that novelist Mary Shelley died, aged 53. Best known for her Gothic novel *Frankenstein*.

125 years ago, on 2nd Feb 1901 that the funeral of Queen Victoria took place.

80 years ago, on 11th Feb 1946, that the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version was published in 1611.

Also 80 years ago, on 14th Feb 1946 that the Bank of England was nationalised.

Also 80 years ago, on 19th Feb 1946 that mathematician and cryptanalyst Alan Turing presented a detailed paper for the national Physical Laboratory that gave the first reasonably complete design of a stored-programme computer.

70 years ago, on 11th Feb 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

65 years ago, on 9th Feb 1961 that the Beatles played at the Cavern Club in Liverpool for the first time.

50 years ago, on 11th Feb 1976 that John Curry won Britain's first-ever Olympic gold medal in figure skating.

Also 50 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1976 that artist the L S Lowry died. Known for his bleak industrial landscapes of north-west England, populated with matchstick men.

40 years ago, on 12th Feb 1986 that the Treaty of Canterbury was signed by Britain and France. It was the agreement to construct the Channel Tunnel linking the two countries. The tunnel opened in 1994.

30 years ago, on 1st Feb 1996 that US President Bill Clinton met Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams at the White House, to discuss the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

Also 30 years ago, on 15th Feb 1996 that the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven in Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

25 years ago, on 12th Feb 2001 that the Human Genome Project announced the publication of the first complete working draft of the human genome.

Also 25 years ago, on 19th Feb 2001 that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex.

20 years ago, on 18th Feb 2006 that the Rolling Stones played the world's largest free rock concert on Copacabana beach, Rio de Janeiro. An estimated 2 million people attended.

Parish Pump 2026

The Boffins and the Technocrats

The boffins and the technocrats
Help folk like me and you
Inventing lots of clever things
That tell us what to do!

My car now has a clever light
Dispelling doubt or fear,
Without it I'd have not a clue
When to shift up a gear!

Of course there is the Sat Nav
To help me find my way
The time I learned to read a map
Was just a wasted day!

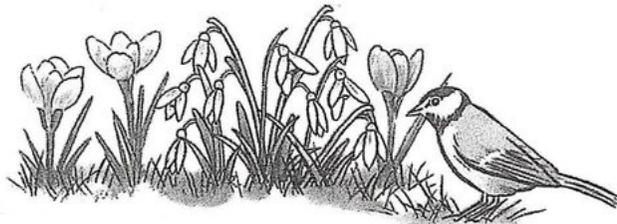
My PC's a law unto itself
So busy telling me
To upgrade this or restart that –
The net I never see!

And sometimes, when my work is done
I turn on my TV
All chance to watch my programme gone –
“Retune” it says to me.

The oven, fridge, and microwave
They make a beeping sound
Or else they have bright lights which flash
To order me around.

And so I am a harassed man,
I live a hassled life;
The one who shouts at me the least
Is my sweet and lovely wife!

By Nigel Beeton, Parish Pump 2026



Parish Pump Smile Lines

A little girl told her mother one day before lunch that her stomach was hurting. Her mother replied: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

That evening the minister and his wife came for dinner. The minister looked a bit rough and explained that his head was hurting him. The little girl gave him a sweet smile and said encouragingly: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

**

Hymns for Professionals

Dentist – Crown Him with many crowns
Contractors – The Church's one foundation
Obstetricians – Come labour on
Golfers – There is a green hill far away
Politicians – Standing on the promises
Librarians – Let all mortal flesh keep silent

**

Church bulletin notices that did not come out quite right...

We apologise for the following typo in last Sunday's bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct it to read '12 noon.'

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring either a friend or a vegetable in a covered dish.

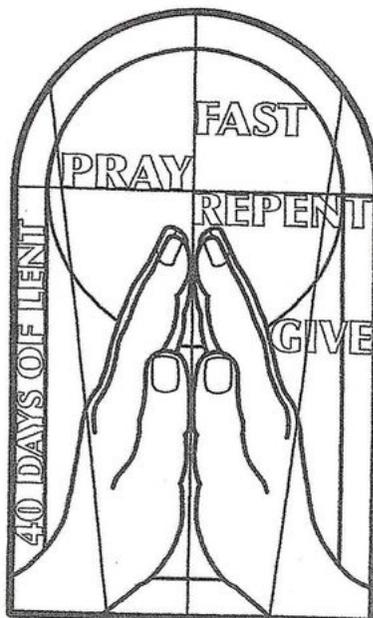
Church Jumble Sale: All welcome. We can offer a gents three-speed bicycle, and two ladies for sale, in good running order."

**

Some observations on living ...

Anxiety never strengthens you for tomorrow; it only weakens you for today.

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so when you die, the world cries and you rejoice. – *Native American saying*



Crossword answers:

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

Stan's Quiz answers:

Sudoku solution:

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

1. Pansy
2. Crocus
3. Daphne
4. Violet
5. Aconite
6. Jasmine
7. Camellia
8. Clematis
9. Cyclamen
10. Hyacinth
11. Mahonias
12. Primrose
13. Aquilegia
14. Hellebores
15. Honeysuckle
16. Chimonanthus
17. Witch hazel
18. Purple kale
19. Winter heath
20. Sweet william

Friendship

Old friends are like old shoes
They are so fitted to the years
They know our highest efforts
And discern our secret fears.

They've walked with us and waited
When we aimed for better things
Through embarrassment or glory
Poor as paupers, proud as kings.

And though for various reasons
Shoes wear out and friendships end
We lose part of our lives
Each time we quarrel with a friend

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)



ROBINS SPIRIT CRAFTS

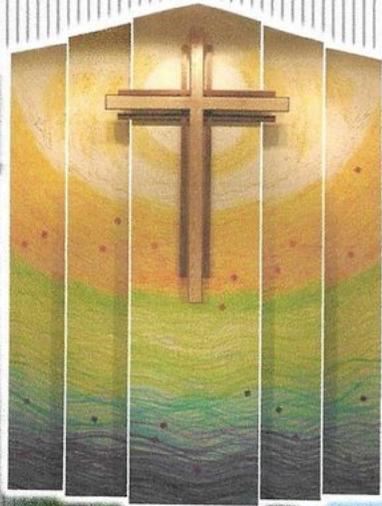
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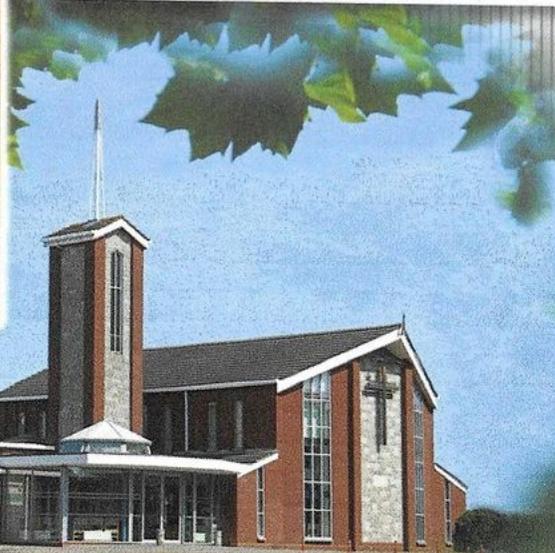
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◆ Trinity Methodist Church ◆



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
10am – 11.30am

Contact:

Mrs Stella Batson - 01562 863503

Rev'd. Verity Phillips - 01562 823300

Trinity
Luncheon Club
Every Wednesday
at 12.15pm

Co-ordinator:
Mrs. Jill Green

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2 JL

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

www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk

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