



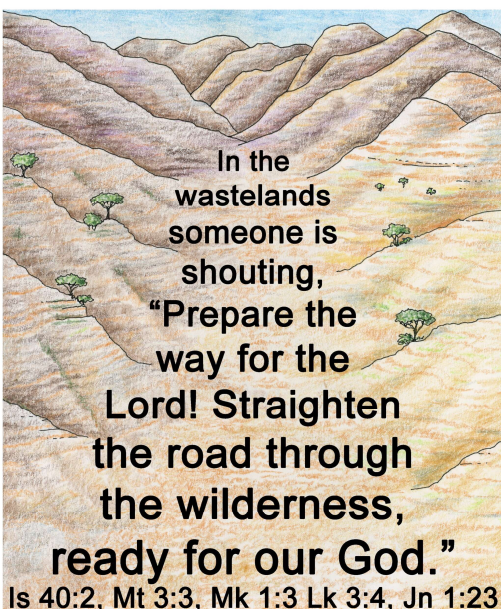
St Andrew's Trinity E-News



Issue 01 / 25

Trinity's email: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net

February 2025



Our Minister is:
Revd Claire Simpson

email:
revclaire72@btinternet.com

NOT Contactable
During Jan & Feb 25

**St Andrew's Trinity
Church worship at
St Andrew's Centre,
South Ham, Basingstoke.**

**St Andrew's Trinity
Website can be reached by:**
[https://e-voice.org.uk/
standrewstrinitymc/](https://e-voice.org.uk/standrewstrinitymc/)
**OR: Home - St Andrew's
Trinity Methodist Church,
Basingstoke (control & click)**

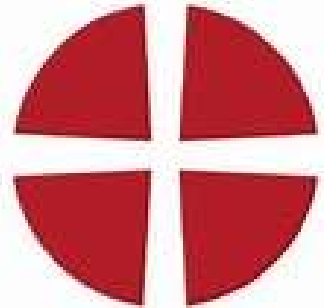
**St Andrew's Trinity
E-News: Deadline for:
March 25 Issue:
Fri 14 February 2025**

I love receiving all your
items, so please keep
them coming. **Thankyou**
to everyone who sends in
items. They can be phoned,
posted, emailed or given to
me. **Thank you, Hazel, Ed**
(☎: 01256-461375) **email:**
hazel@basingstokecircuit.net

16B Portacre Rise, B/Stoke,
RG21 8YQ

Link: Circuit Website:
www.bhbcircuit.org.uk

- Love is practical, or it is
not love at all – P W
Heward



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**Part of Berkshire & Hampshire
Borders Methodist Circuit**

February 2025

Dear friends,

'What's in a name?' – That phrase comes from William Shakespeare's *'Romeo and Juliet'* where the two lovers come from feuding families. *'What's in a name?'* – Well, a lot, I would say. Before Christmas, while trying to find something to watch on the television, I found repeats of the American comedy series *'Cheers'* were available. Definitely not as highbrow as Shakespeare but it was a great favourite of my husband and I. It was about the lives of the regulars in a Boston bar and it had a catchy signature tune including the following words:

*'You wanna be where everybody
knows your name.'*

The lyrics of *"Where Everybody Knows Your Name"* speak to an important universal truth. We all yearn for connection and a sense of belonging. We want to find that special place where we can be known and accepted, just as we are. Whether it's a physical space or a virtual one, we all need a sense of community to thrive. This sense of belonging can be found in any group of people who spend time together such as workplaces, leisure activities, clubs, online groups etc, but for most of us, the people who know us best and even give us our names are our own physical families.

Yet, as Christians, we also belong to another family where we are known and loved. As believers, we are adopted into the Kingdom of God and become His sons and daughters. So, whether we like the name on our birth certificate or the nicknames we have been given by those who know us, we can find joy in knowing that we are called by God and that our names are written on the palms of His hands (see Isaiah 49: 16).

We are important and loved in our own Church family. We may not all know one

another's names (although most of us are trying to learn!) but we support and care for one another. We feel we belong here.

But the church family has a special purpose; to worship and honour Jesus Christ, described by Paul as *'the Name above all Names'* in Philippians 2: 9. He means that Jesus' Name is superior, greater and more powerful than any other name in the world because Jesus is God. Only Jesus' Name can save and His Name should be glorified. May we always glorify Jesus' Name with praise, worship, adoration, and thankfulness.

Revelation 19: 16 paints a majestic picture of Jesus in His heavenly glory.

*"On His robe and on His thigh,
He has this name written King of
Kings and Lord of Lords."*

It is only by placing faith in Christ now during our earthly lives that we have the promise of living with our King and Lord for all eternity.

Take time today to reflect on His reign over your life. Let the truth of His kingship bring you peace, purpose, and confidence, knowing that you are under the care of the King of Kings. God knows your name and He has claimed you as His own.

Blessings,

Anne Rowe

**Church Council Meeting –
Monday 10 February at 2 pm
at St Andrew's Trinity**

**Worship Group – Change of Date
Worship Group will NOW meet on
Monday 17 February 2 pm at
St Andrew's Trinity.**

- The purpose of this world is not to have and to hold, but to forgive and to serve
– Wilfred Grenfell



Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

**Sunday Worship at St Andrew's Trinity
and our Basingstoke Churches –
Plan for Worship: February 2025**



Enquiries – Joint Senior Stewards:

Diane Bath ☎: 01256 320429 or email dianeath51@gmail.com

Linda Hoe ☎: 01256 417219 or email lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk

Berkshire & Hampshire Borders Circuit Plan, February 2025 (B/Stoke Churches)

Dates	2 Feb	9 Feb	16 Feb	23 Feb
St Andrew's Trinity 10.30 am	Mrs Anne Rowe	Rev Andy Fitchet, HC	Mr Chris Marsh	LA
Church of Liv Stream 10.30 am	Prof Tony Bell	Mr Peter Frank	Mr David Munns	LA
Oakley 10.30 am	Mr Chris Marsh	Mr Terry Rowell	Rev Dr Ruth Midcalf, HC	LA
Oakridge 10.30 am	Mr David Munns	Rev D Cook, HC	LA	Rev Andy Fitchet
Old Basing 10.30 am	LA	Mr Symon Turner	Mrs Linda Hoe	Rev Barbara McIntivey, HC

Blessings

Blessings for all who love God

Look for the kindness of Him

Every day pray for others

Sing of God's blessings and love

Shine in the darkness God and bless us all

In all I do I thank God for His blessings

Never forget to say thanks for His blessings

God's blessing on us all as we work together

Say a blessing as you meet a troubled soul

Peggy Wood (Silchester Retreat, Nov 24)

Enjoy 'Fellowship & Refreshments' after Morning Worship.

Our Thanks to all who serve refreshments Sundays and weekdays in the 'Mug & Biscuit'.

(More Volunteers always very welcome, Sundays or weekdays, if you can help, please have a word with Linda, thank you).



A Prayer Request Book – Is available each Sunday and prayers will be included in the 'Intercessions'. Please ensure you have permission from the person you would like prayed for. **Diane Bath**



A new opportunity for informal worship



All are welcome to join us on

Sunday 9th February 2025

At 5pm

in St Andrew's Methodist Church,
Basingstoke for
soup and cake in the Mug and Biscuit
followed by

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER”

At 6pm Worship in an relaxed atmosphere

A chance to... share in conversation,
Join together in singing and prayer,
And explore faith in a creative way.

SPARK – Resources for Children and Young Teens

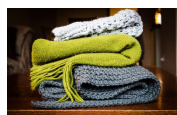
Christian material for children and teens is not difficult to find; there are graphic Bibles, adventure stories with a moral message, great gospel songs and Bible reading schemes with puzzles and competitions.

In the last month I have been trying out an app on my smart phone, designed for older children and teens, which I think is great.

SPARK is produced by UCB (United Christian Broadcasters) and provides an accessible message everyday with a follow up activity and message.

It's easy and free to download at UCBSPARK.co.uk so try it out for yourself and then recommend it to somebody who might enjoy getting God's message everyday on their computer or phone.

Hilary Reed



Spring Sale, St Andrew's Trinity – ‘SAVE the Date’

Saturday 22 March, 11 am – 3 pm



Good quality items for sale (not jumble) can be left at St Andrew's Trinity from early March (date to come) during 'Mug & Biscuit Opening Times', see page 20. **If you can help 'Man a Stall' for all or part of the day please let Linda know:** ☎ 01256 417219 / email: lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk

There will also be **Light Snacks, Cakes & Drinks** available

'A Bit of Peace and Quiet'



All are welcome to join us on

Thursday 20th February

at St Andrew's Methodist Church,
Basingstoke
for

"Our Amazing Hands"

We will gather between 1pm and 1.30pm

From 1.30 to 3.30pm we will reflect on how we use our hands and how
Jesus used his hands by looking at art and exploring creativity.

A taste of a Silchester Retreat Day

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**10 & 11 May
2025**

*(details to
follow)*

**Celebrating
60 years of:**

**'3rd
Basingstoke
Boys'
Brigade'**

**at our
Church.**

***Theresa
Strachan***

**Sunday Car
Parking**

I am looking into
the problem of
parking at Church
for Sunday

Worship. Most
roads adjacent to
the church do not
have yellow lines.

For those who are
severely affected I
have a solution so
please see me
personally.

Bob Lock



BEWARE AND FORWARDED

On **Sunday 27th April** there is a Junior
Netball Tournament taking place at Russell
Howard Park. This means **car parking at the
St Andrews Centre and the car park at Russell Howard will
be at a minimum.** Please share cars if you can, there should be
parking available in the lay-bys in Western Way or see Bob about
parking in his road, 2 minutes' walk to church, **Bob**



- The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, the self-righteous cannot pray – *L Ravenhill*

St Andrews Trinity now has its own Website and Quarterly Flyer



The Home Page for this is: (use control & click)

[Home - St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church, Basingstoke](#)

Our Website – currently the website has details of Church activities including Church Services, the Mug & Biscuit, Church Groups, Children's Groups and other users of our premises. Details of upcoming events at or relevant to St Andrew's Trinity as well as the current issue of the **e-news** magazine are also on the website.

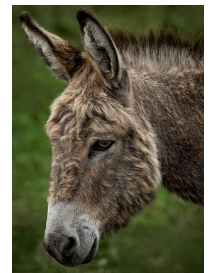
The website will be updated with new information as and when it is available **BUT it will be up to Church members & those running various groups & activities** to keep both me and our e-news editor (Hazel) informed of what is going on. The website is in its infancy, and a huge learning curve for me in its development, so I welcome any suggestions for changes and/or additions you would like to see on the website.

Our Flyer – you may have seen the **Flyer**, out beginning of December, A5 size folded with info on what is going on at church, next one beginning of March, **Hazel H**

To produce the **Website & Flyer** we thank all the contributors for the info they sent to Hazel, enabling us to be able to put info onto the website & into the Flyer, **Peter Harris**

Donkeys

In my travels I have seen the misuse of Donkeys. It is not pleasant to see. Did we make a lasting change? In 1944 when I was in the RAF in Italy I was posted to Naples. Our billet was an old hospital on the side of a hill in the road out of Naples going north.



We were all very distressed to see the donkey carts with large loads trying to get up the hill. The donkeys were in distress and the Italian was riding sitting on top of the load whipping the donkey with a long-handled whip. We had only been there about a week and it was noticeable that no-one was riding on the load or whipping the animal. Many of our rooms had a whip hung on the wall.

I was there for some 18 months and I never saw anyone riding on or whipping the animal.

The worse thing I saw was a cart which was a flat bed (no sides with holes in the corners to hold a large stave of wood to keep the load on). The cart had a big load on and it was obvious the donkey was in difficulty, the Italian had taken one of these staves from the cart and was hitting the donkey with it. This was most distressing to see and one of our number really lost it. He rushed up to the man and took the stave from him by force and hit him with it hard between the shoulders. The man went down heavily and I really thought he was dead. After a few minutes he revived and stood up for my friend to tell him if he saw him do likewise he would kill him – he really meant it and we all backed him up.

We never saw this man again so we do not know if he was hurt or not or if he found another route.

I often wonder what it is like now?

Nobby

Cascades of Blessings – Silchester November Retreat

Many of us I am sure will have received Cascades of Blessings over the Christmas period by going to Christmas dinners and Carol services, sharing traditional Christmas day with family and friends, receiving Christmas presents and maybe even going out to a Christmas theatre production. We look forward to it and may even feel that we deserve to be spoilt at this time of the year.

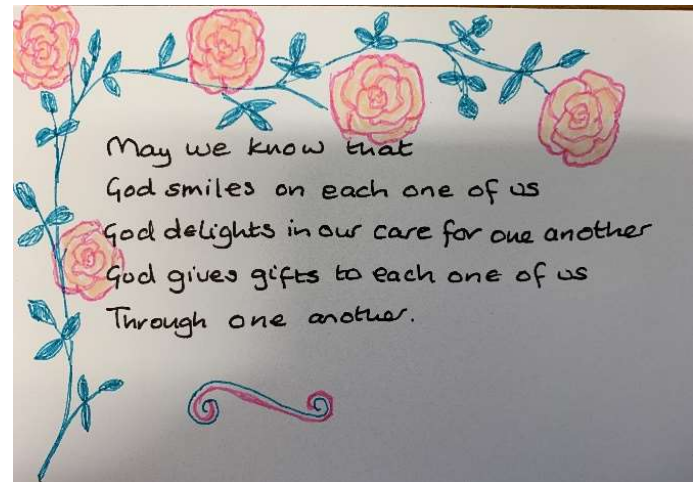
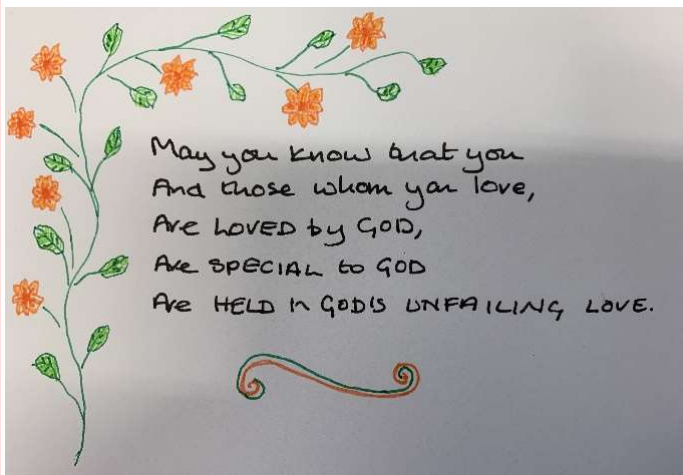
Should we not step back from this materialistic attitude to Christmas celebrations and look at what receiving Blessings truly mean. Those of us that attended the end of year Retreat at Silchester, "Cascades of Blessings", led by Rev Angela Webb and David Webb had the opportunity to do just that in seeking a deeper understanding of our Lord's Word.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. Psalm 84:11.

O Lord God Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you. Psalm 84:12.

Verse 12 can be interpreted as meaning "Happy, fortunate and envied is the man, believing in You, committing all and confidently looking to You, and that without fear or misgiving."

Should we now focus our Blessings on those that we see that are in need of Love and Support? We do not have far to look, there are many homeless and in need of support around us. Many will have spent Christmas alone without family or friends. We should focus our Outreach on those in need and support and Bless them. They will then receive Our Lord's "Cascades of Blessings".



May the God of Hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with Hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13.

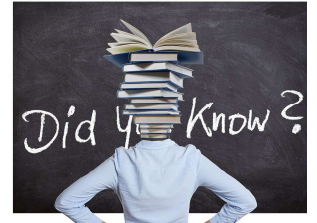
May Our Lord continue to Bless us as we now travel into the New Year 2025 seeking to have a deeper understanding of the work He is guiding us to do in contributing to the Blessings that He bestows on those around us.

Martin Frost, 1 January 2025

3rd Basingstoke Boys Brigade – especially 5 – 8 yr-old boys. If there are any boys with nothing to do on a Friday night between 6.30pm – 7.45pm, it's £2 per session and boys can come any Friday to see what we do. If they want to join us on a regular basis that would be great. The older Boys meet from 7.45pm until 10pm.

Might be? Could be? Certainly is

Quiz programmes on television. Do you watch them? How good are you at the answers? I confess to being an avid viewer, particularly the general knowledge ones.



Having lived so long, I have picked up all kinds of triviality, as well as interesting information about different things. Things well removed from my background and experience.

For instance, I now know that Rutherfordium is one of the chemical elements, listed on the periodic table. As I have not studied Chemistry, and have no knowledge of the subject, this is completely new to me. I still do not know why it might be useful, but nevertheless it has added to my general knowledge.

It is amazing how much can still be learnt, usually for me, just by listening to conversation from all kinds of sources. Most of it can probably be discarded, but sometimes there is a little 'gem' of a thought. It helps to have an open mind as well as an open ear of course. I realise that since leaving school in the 1950's and even going to college afterwards, my interest in all kinds of things has changed, grown, and become vital for keeping my aged brain alert and interested in life generally, and my place in today's world.

Of course, the other matter is recall. So, ask me a question today, and I may not have an instant answer. Come back in two days' time, and I might, that is if I have remembered the question of course.

The worst things can be names; Names I know well I mean, of people, places, events. It can be frustrating, but hey oh, I cannot know everything.

I do have a closed mind about 'Pop' so that's when I go to make a cup of tea, then return to watch the rest of the quiz. There are times when I do get caught out, that is when I hear strains of a tune from my 'era, like Val Dominican or further back Jonnie Ray.,

All of this is very cerebral and as humans we are much more than that. There is part of me which has great certainty. That is Faith. It is what I believe to be true.

St Paul writes in his letter to Timothy, this young man growing in faith, of his certainty of his relationship with God. *He says:*

"I am convinced that he is able, to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. (2 Timothy Chap. 1 verse 12 NIV) That's certainty. I am not left looking around for an answer.

We used to sing, *'This one thing I know, God in great mercy pardoned me, snapped sin's fetters, and set me free, Once I was blind, but now I see, this one thing I know.'*

Praise God. Can't you just hear those fetters snap!

God bless you, **Margaret Garland**

There will be a  Bookstall' after Church

on the following Sundays: 23 February & 30 March

Selling Books and more. Books, daily readings etc *can also be ordered, please see Linda*



Memorial flowers

We have a small group of flower arrangers who are happy to offer to do small flower arrangements, on our memorial book cabinet (Max cost £10).

If you would like to mark a significant date in memory of someone special in this way, please **speak to Ann Walker or a steward**, preferably two weeks in advance.



New Congregation in Kempshott Lane

On 12 December the former Kempshott Methodist Church building which has stood on Kempshott Lane for 112 years passed into the hands of a new congregation, The Harvest Chapel International which originated in Ghana.



The life of Kempshott Methodist Church was celebrated in July 2023 before we became an on-line church, the Church of the Living Stream, in September 2023.

On 22 December 2024 the handover was marked by a service of Carols and Lessons with a contemporary, charismatic twist. The new congregation was supported by various members of the Church of the Living Stream. People were welcomed from 4 pm onwards and a period of prayer and praise began the worship. Bible readings were interspersed with carols. A gospel choir led the congregational singing and also supplied additional worship songs.

The story of Jesus' birth was read by members of the Church of the Living Stream and a number of children from the Harvest Chapel International who were particularly impressive, reading fluently and clearly from their very own bibles. Some of the children were as young as six years old and showed great confidence in the face of a congregation which numbered more than sixty people.

After the service refreshments were served and a time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Worship will continue in the church on Sundays from about 9.30 am until 1.30 pm. This allows time for Christian teaching, worship and the sharing of food in the warmth of community fellowship.

The Church of the Living Stream will continue its on-line fellowship at 10.30 am on Sundays and Wednesdays. Details are available on the web-site

www.churchlivingstream.co.uk or email Colin info@churchlivingstream.co.uk

All are welcome to join in, especially anyone who is unable to get to a conventional service.

Charmian Harrison

A Friend who was a Christian Probation Officer working with young offenders, used to quote ***"Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition."*** George would sometimes bring the lads to our house for cold drinks and chat.

Steve's mum used to quote ***"There are no pockets in shrouds,"*** and ***"There's folk dying today who have never died before."***

Sent in by Angela Smith

Zac in Basingstoke in 2025

Do you sing? Play an instrument? Want a challenging but rewarding day on 7th June 2025?

It is not long to go now!

The musical Zac is a familiar gospel story with a different slant, which we will present at Christ Church Chineham. Please book it in your diaries!

If you are interested in singing, or playing an instrument, we would love you to join us. We are also looking for support people – if you think you could help please let me know. (If you have already said you would like to join, there is no need to tell me again).

Or... just come along to the presentation in the afternoon, and get caught up in the story.

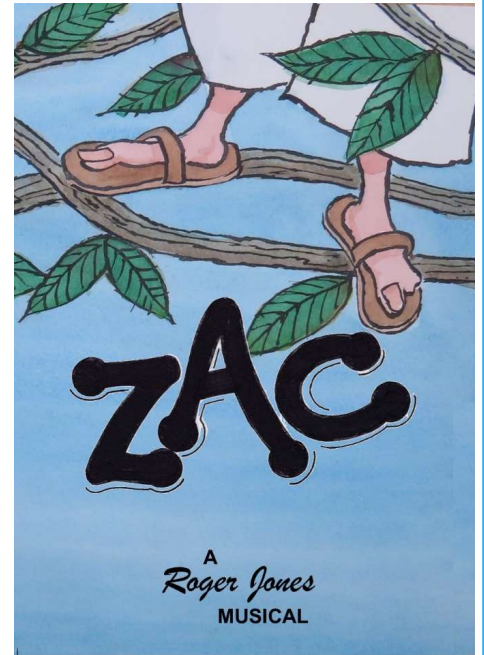
If you want to see the musical on YouTube, it is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMyaRXypJ5g>

Just as happened with "Wildfire" that we did last April, Christian musicals are great worship, they are good fun, and they are a very good way to meet with other people and just share and enjoy each other's company. They also offer something to people who are just curious about Christianity.

There will be an opportunity for singers to practise the songs in the lead up to the day. You do not need to come to these familiarisation sessions – it is ok to just come on the day for the rehearsal and presentation.

Please book the date, and if you want to know more, please do contact me.

Thank you – David Webb, ☎: 07848 843360 circuitmusical@bhbcircuit.org.uk



Two Prayers by Pat Murphy

Psalm 31 v 15

My Times are in your hand

What a wonderful peace I find
As these words fill my mind
With Him in control I need not fear
Knowing Him and knowing He is near.

He is with me always in
good times and bad
And will never leave me or make me sad
The joy He gives me sees me through
And helps me do what I should do.

He is the pearl of greatest price
Because of His love and sacrifice
In Him all praise is given
In earth and Highest Heaven.

Romans 5 v 7 – 8

But God demonstrates His love for us in
that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us

How wonderful that God should come that
He sent his son to save people
everywhere

His love for us took him to the cross
That nobody should die and be lost.

He is so wonderful, there is not enough
words to praise the Lord
But He is known through His
precious word.

As we come to Him day by day
He makes us like Him in every way
Our love for Him grows stronger
As we rest in Him and gaze and wonder.

I received this letter from Hazel Parsons at Christmas. Hazel suggested I might like to share it with others, through the newsletter. Most will remember Hazel who was a Trinity member and Local Preacher for many years, HH

Dear Friends,

The cards and letters fall onto the mat and I scoop them up with smiles and warm memories and feelings. They hang around the walls giving out blessings and lovely wishes, not simply for Christmas, but for always. I feel very blessed.

I am aware I have sent fewer this year, cutting down from 120 seemed to be necessary. However it hasn't prevented me from wishing you good health and blessings as I've been through names and memories.

Hazel Harris continues to send the magazine and also updates, as does Diane.

I came across a photograph of so many of you when you were in your thirties, possibly younger. I wasn't in it! But it reminded me of the vibrancy of that group, who then went on to have babies and those children are now, themselves that sort of age and more.

I'm sure you are all missing Jennifer and Tony, but they have fallen on their feet, which is wonderful.

Change happens inevitably and the sadness felt at the closure of Trinity will be felt especially at Christmas. One of my own treasured memories is having the privilege to preside at Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve. Something of a dream come true.

After a tricky beginning to the year, health wise, I am feeling a little more like myself, but much slower! I'm still a circuit steward and our small circuit is being encouraged and enhanced by our new Super! He's been with us a year, but had a sabbatical, which has given him extra enthusiasm.

My eldest grandchild is at York University and that has brought back lovely memories for my own days, but more for the journey taking John to Exeter and waving Helen off on the train to Sheffield! Basingstoke station being an excellent hub.

Thank you for the many good wishes and the love which has been sent. I hope that this next year helps everyone to settle into your new church family. I picture you all together and trust that new friendships will grow. You are, of course, part of a big circuit now!

With prayers for the New Year and all it will bring,

Much love to you all

Hazel Parsons

In Praise of the Humble Egg (PP)

We love eggs. On average, we eat at least two of them each week, which makes eggs one of Britain's most popular foods. Eggs are exceptionally good for you – high in protein, containing all the essential amino acids, rich in the B vitamins, vitamin D and A, and choline, and a source of healthy fats. Eggs are also filling, and with 7.5g of protein in less than 80 calories per egg, there are few other foods that can match them for so much protein per gram. They are also inexpensive and easy to cook. Experts recommend eating one or two eggs a day, and choosing a low-fat way of cooking them, by boiling or poaching. Cooking them in butter is a bit lower in fat than frying them in olive oil. Free-range eggs generally contain more vitamin D.





Curcuit Youth weekend

Calling all young people School year 4 to 12

**Saturday 29th to Sunday 30th
March 2025**

**Location is the Emmanuel Oxford Road
Church, in Reading.**

For more information please talk to your Church Youth and Children Leader or Minister

Or Contact Yvonne, Rea or the Circuit Office

Yvonne Hunt (she/her)

Cricut Children Families and Young Persons Outreach Worker

Phone: 07462040644

Email: yvonne.h@bhbcircuit.org.uk

Rae Douglas (he/him)

Circuit Youth Minister

Phone: 07873722319

Email: rae.d@bhbcircuit.org.uk

Look back,
and
remember
He was
with you.
Stand still,
and realise
He is with
you.

Walk
forward,
and trust:
He will be
with you
always –
*Margaret
Sif*

* * * *

God made
man to be
somebody
– not just to
have things
– *Anon*

* * * *

Christ's
sheep are
marked in
the ear and
the foot;
they hear
His voice,
and they
follow Him
– *Anon*

* * * *

The Gift (PP)

Saved by grace lest any should boast
Such is His gift obtained at great cost,
God's Son was given to set men free,
Redemption made ours as He hung on the tree.

In wonder the angels saw Him go
From the glories of heaven to our world below,
This earth once fair now corrupt from the fall,
Fellowship broken and lost to all.

Bought back with a price
that we could not pay
The taint of our sin
by His blood washed away,
Reconciled to the Father,
all this we have gained
Salvation His gift if we call on His Name.

by Megan Carter

Canon Paul Hardingham considers true love... Love in Action! (PP)

'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.' (1 John 3:18).

The writer Gary Chapman describes how love can be expressed in 5 different 'languages': words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred language of love? As we think about St Valentine during this month, let's consider how God's love language is expressed in the word *agape*. This is exclusively found in the New Testament and is uniquely defined by Jesus:

'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.' (1 John 3:16).

Jesus' giving of His life on the cross provides the model for how we can demonstrate God's love in our relationships with others.

It is self-giving: are we ready to put the other person first, as Jesus did when He died for us in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service, whatever the cost?

It takes the initiative: are we ready to show love to those who don't deserve it or who we find hard to love? Do we have eyes of compassion to see their needs and a heart to love and serve them?

It is intentional: are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of the time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, *'how much do you love me?'* The child replied *'lots and lots and lots!'* Then they asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said *'I love you this much'*, as they nailed Him to a cross.

What you have in Common with a Woodcarving (PP)

Woodcarving isn't as straightforward as it seems. You don't begin with a block of wood; you begin with a piece of paper. The first step is to draw a plan of what you want to carve, and only when you've got that right do you start to shape your piece of wood. The carver then works his block with his plan alongside it. He cuts those bits of wood away that he doesn't want, and shapes what's left until it ever more closely resembles that original plan.

Only when the design on the wood and the paper plan *are identical* has the carver finished his job. He's then made exactly what he'd hoped for, while working all along from that original plan. It's the same for our lives. God is the master carpenter. He has a unique plan for each one of us, which is a blueprint of what He hopes we will become. As we go through life, God shapes us, cutting away those bits of us that He doesn't want and which would spoil what He hopes we'll come to look like. He then gradually moulds what's left until we look ever more like that original blueprint. Only when the two are identical will God's work be over.

But there's one big difference between a human being and a block of wood. A block of wood sits impassively on the carver's bench while he works at it. The wood cannot help the process along and has no idea what's happening to it. God very much hopes that we'll help Him in the process of being moulded and shaped into His pattern. That's why we read the Bible and worship and pray: to find out just what His plan is for each one of us. Only when we have some idea of what He wants us to be can we help Him in the process.

Oakley Methodist Church



Coffee Mornings on:
Tuesdays 11 & 25 February
10.30 am – 12 noon
£1 for a bottomless
tea or coffee & biscuits
Paperbacks available
30p each
Proceeds to the Red Cross.

Anna (Luke 2:36-38)

All those years in the temple,
 In waiting widowhood.

All those years
 Worshipping, wondering,
 What had it all been about?
 Seven years of marriage
 Then this lifetime alone,

And yet

There was this sense of purpose,
 Of Spirit-significance
 Impending,
 Then there He was,
 The child.

And Simeon sang
 Of salvation and sorrow,
 Of rising and falling,
 Of light and loss,
 Of revelation and piercing.

I gazed at the child,
 Glimpsed the glory of God
 And gave thanks
 For the years.

by Daphne Kitching (PP)

Oakridge Methodist Church

Vivian Road, Basingstoke, RG21 5QB

'Welcome Hub'

EVERY Wednesday, 10 am – 12 noon

A 'busy group' doing mainly craft activities for local charities, but opportunity to bring along something you are working on.

Refreshments and some craft materials provided.
 No charge but donations gratefully received.

Coffee & Craft

Why not come and give us a try?

Old Basing Methodist Church

CAMEO Club next meet on:

18 February between
11.30 am – 1 pm



Light lunch served. Please bring along
crafts of your choice. All Welcome.

Gillian Smethurst

Joint Cafe Venture – 'Old Basing MC and St Mary's Church, Old Basing':

"The Welcome Cafe"

Will be open at **St Mary's Parish Room,**
 Old Basing between **2 pm and 4.30 pm** on
Fridays 7 & 21 February.

Delicious homemade cakes and hot
drinks. You pay what you can afford.
All are welcome.



Easter Inside Out – the Story as if You were There

by David Kitchen, BRF, £12.99 (PP)

Step into the Easter story... Acclaimed storyteller David Kitchen reimagines the Easter narrative through a varied cast of characters, from Mary Magdalene to Caiaphas. If you want to understand who might have been where and doing what as the Easter story unfolds, this book gives you answers. It also lets you sense what it could have been like to be one of those involved in the twists and turns of one of the most extraordinary stories in the whole of history.

PRAYING & LISTENING**Sunday mornings –**

Anyone wearing this badge will be available to listen & pray quietly with you at the back of the church after the service.

The Fountain Prayer Group

meets in the **Main Hall or Small Hall** at St Andrew's Trinity

on: **Thursdays 13 & 27 February**



We gather at 2.30 pm and begin at 2.45 pm with a short reflection. The rest of our time together includes a period of silence and some prayerful sharing. We finish the formal part at around 4 pm. Please come even if you cannot attend every meeting.

Angela Webb (angela@webbfamily.org.uk)

'TUESDAY COFFEE CLUB'

Come and enjoy a '*cuppa & chat*', everyone very welcome.

Runs alongside the **Mug & Biscuit** at the back of the church **10 am to 11.30 am**. Finishes in time to grab lunch in the Mug & Biscuit! Aims to stay open **all year apart from Christmas**,

Di Spencer

Pixabay

**NO Trinity Circle in February****Northern Housegroup**

Next meet on:

Tuesday 4 February for a Planning Meeting at Sonia's home.

Sonia, Hilary and Edna

(JAM) – 'Jesus And Me'

Meets: 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm, usually the 1st Sunday of the month at St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church



The Next 'JAM' Dates are:

Sunday 2 February – Theme: 'Using your Talents'

Sunday 2 March – Theme:

'New beginnings, the story of Zaccheus'

Sunday 6 April – Theme:

'The Big Surprise'

* * * * *

JAM – Children & Families meet at St Andrew's Trinity, usually the 1st Sunday of the month to hear stories of Jesus, Craft, Singing & Tea.

All very welcome, do come & join us.

Yvonne Hunt – is our Children's, Families & Young Persons Outreach Worker for our Basingstoke Methodist Churches.

email: yvonne.h@bhbcircuit.org.uk or phone on: ☎: 07462 040644

South Ham Churches Lunch Club

St Andrews, St Josephs & St Peters run a Lunch Club on the 2nd & 4th Fridays, 12.30 pm, at St Joseph's Church, St Michael's Rd. Open to over 55's, cost £5 per head. More info from **Churches' Co-ordinator, Hannah Lock**. If you would like to help more info from **Bob Lock, Methodist Co-ordinator**.



Litter



We have a gang of litter pickers who clean surrounding areas of the church, in pairs. Usually the rota calls on people once every two months. The church is surrounded on three sides by a public right of way, so you can gather the amount of litter found. The Gang has depleted in numbers so.....*If you can help in any way, please see Bob L, equipment provided, thank you.*

Pixabay

The List of - Church Stewards & Congregational Representatives on Church Council can be found on the Notice Board at the back of the Church, along with a copy of the most **Current Church Council Minutes**.

'Singing Group Dates'

The '**Singing Group**' meets next on **Mondays: 10 & 24 February and on Monday 10 March, all at 11am.**



We look forward to seeing you, everyone is very welcome, especially a few more men. Do come and join us for an enjoyable 'sing'. If you would like more information, have a word with Peggy.

Peggy and Hazel

'Crafting Bits' – If anyone wants some Crafting Bits (we have paints, coloured sand, felt, google eyes, lollipop sticks and much more),

please contact: **Yvonne Hunt**: Outreach@BRMC.uk



Pixabay

Newsletter: 'Events / Dates / Contributions'



Please send me any: '**Events**', '**Dates for Diaries**', '**other contributions**' you would like included or promoted in '**OUR**' Newsletter. **Thank you, Hazel, Ed.** (Items can be: bible passages, prayers, poems, stories, outings, holidays, events, anything else you would like included).

Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:

Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

email: revclaire72@btinternet.com

NOT Contactable in Jan & Feb 2025

* * * * *

Church Contacts: Joint Senior Stewards:

Diane Bath: ☎ 01256 320429 /

email: dianebath51@gmail.com

Linda Hoe: ☎: 01256 417219 /

email: lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk

* * * * *

St Andrew's Trinity Bookings: Contact: Bob

Lock, email: robertlock1@virginmedia.com

* * * * *

St Andrew's Trinity E-News, Editor: Hazel

Harris, email: hazel@basingstokecircuit.net

☎ 01256-461375, address:

16B Portacre Rise, B/Stoke, RG21 8YQ

* * * * *

Other Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:

Circuit Administrator: Mrs Marion Young, can

be contacted: ☎ 07503 652961 (working hours only) & email: marion.y@bhbcircuit.org.uk

* * * * *

Circuit Administrator: Lee Frost, can be

contacted: ☎ 07586 441328 & by email at: lee.f@bhbcircuit.org.uk

* * * * *

Children's, Families & Young Person's

Outreach Worker, B/Stoke, Yvonne Hunt can

be contacted: ☎: 07462 040644 or by

email: yvonne.h@bhbcircuit.org.uk

* * * * *

We are now part of the new Berkshire & Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit, the new website is: www.bhbcircuit.org.uk

Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit is a Registered Charity, the Charity No is: 1134891

Around our Circuit / Area – What's on & Where ? ***(taken from circuit notices)***



Berkshire & Hampshire Borders
Methodist Circuit

- **NEW Circuit Website: 'Berkshire & Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit'** at: www.bhbcircuit.org.uk
- **New Events – "Hot Potatoes" Open Discussion Group** on Zoom first Monday of the month, thinking about **"Hot Potatoes"** sometimes thought 'too hot to handle'. Further details, contact Revd Rachel Borgars, ☎: 07889 905753) or rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk Join Zoom Meeting (*waiting room, no password*) at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84961411119> (Meeting ID: 849 6141 1119).
- **Monthly Online Bible Study** – Open Bible study on Zoom restarted 22 January 2025. Fourth Wednesday of the month, 7.30 pm. Contact: Revd Rachel Borgars rachel.borgars@methodist.org.uk or ☎: 07889 905753. Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81154471992> (Meeting ID: 811 5447 1992).
- **Hungerford Memory Worship** – join us for a 30-minute informal Service. All welcome, especially those living with dementia and their carers. Traditional hymns, Bible reading, Prayer, Thought-for-the-Day, followed by drinks and biscuits. **2nd Thursday each month** at the Methodist Church, Bridge Street, RG17 OEH, 2.30 pm, led by Revd Andy Fitchet and Karen Frost. Free parking outside the church or in Canal Walk. Step-free access to church, accessible toilet. Contact Karen on ☎: 07444 851606.
- **Hungerford At-Home-Events weekly: Evening Prayer, Tuesdays by Zoom, 7.30 pm**, use link to join: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87317558512?pwd=Zk92M0NsSG5DdnlnYmkyV1lhVXZjUT09/> / **Men's Prayer "Breakfast", Saturdays, 9 am by Zoom**, use link to join: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83446790478?pwd=L1IKRkJSN3N3VTBCbTZmR0htbHIZUT09>
- **Petersfield Area Churches Annual Coach Holiday – Tour to Norfolk, Sat 5 July – Sat 12 July 2025, Holiday Inn, Ipswich Road, Norwich.** Located on the outskirts of Norwich, hotel has 119 well-appointed bedrooms (37 on ground floor) TV, iron & ironing board, tea / coffee making facilities. Bar & restaurant, Health Club with indoor heated pool, gymnasium, sauna, beauty treatments. **Price includes** 7 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast from £329 per room to £799 per person, depending on number of paying passengers, sharing twin / double rooms, single room supplement (23 singles available). Trips every day with 1 free day. **Further info contact: Gordon Churchill email at: gordonachurchill@gmail.com ☎: 01730 260454. To book: call Angela, Holidays ☎: 02380 404536, quote reference MP075.**
- **ALL email addresses ending with @basingstokereadingmethodists.uk are NO LONGER VALID & will not reach the person in question, any queries contact Lee.**

- 90 years ago, on 22 Feb 1935, US President Franklin D Roosevelt banned aircraft from flying over the White House – because the noise kept him awake at night. The ban remains in place today, but mainly now for security reasons.
- 90 years ago, on 26 Feb 1935, British radio engineer Robert Warson-Watt demonstrated a working radar system for the first time, in Daventry.
- 70 years ago, from 24 Feb 1955 to March, Britain's Big Freeze took place. Deep snow and freezing temperatures caused havoc, with many places cut off. The RAF dropped food and medical supplies to affected areas, while thousands of sheep died from exposure.

Christian Resources still available:

Steve Wood, continues to supply Christian Resources to Newbury, Thatcham & surrounding areas via 'Sonrise Christian Resources'.

You can **phone Steve on ☎: 07396 825097** or email as below for advice, to talk through options or requirements. *'We're here to help you source any item you need: General Christian books, cards, gifts and more'.* Look at our **website at: www.sonrisechristianresources.co.uk**

Contact details are: email:

stevewood@sonrisechristianresources.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sonrisechristianresources

Prayer for February 2025 (PP)

Dear Lord, February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

Lord – as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

by Daphne Kitching

EYE-WITNESS

Stories from Israel-Palestine

Come and hear first-hand from Nick Papadopoulos, recently returned from three months in East Jerusalem

- *What is daily life under occupation really like?*
- *What are the implications for human rights and international law?*
- *What can be done to promote a just peace in Israel-Palestine?*

6th March 2025 at 7pm
Wesley Methodist Church
84 Queen's Road
Reading
RG14BW

ALL WELCOME!

For more information about the programme please visit: www.eyewitnessblogs.com



Ecumenical
Accompaniment
Programme
in Palestine
and Israel

- 75 years ago, on 8 Feb 1950, the world's first payment by credit card took place. The founders of Diners Club (*now Diners Club International*) used it to pay their restaurant bill at Majero's Cabin Grill in New York City.

Diary Page, St Andrew's Trinity – CHECK out the Church Noticeboards !

Dates	Timings	<u>EVENTS</u> at St Andrew's Trinity unless advised
<i>Weekly & Monthly Events – T/T (term-time)</i>		
Tue, Wed, Thur <i>weekly T/T only</i>	10am–1.30pm	Mug & Biscuit is Open for drinks, biscuits, cakes, tea-cakes, light lunches, <i>p20</i>
Tues, weekly	10am–11.30am	Tuesday Coffee Club , <i>p15</i>
Wed weekly T/T	1pm–3pm	Knit One, Drop One
2 nd /4 th Frid month	12.30pm	S/Ham Churches Lunch Club, <i>St Joseph's Church</i> , <i>p15</i>
2 nd & 4 th Thurs <i>monthly</i>	2.30pm–4pm	The Fountain Prayer Group twice monthly unless otherwise advised, <i>p15</i>
4 th Tues evening	6.30pm	Harrow Way Housegroup
<i>Youth Organisations – Weekly, Mostly Term-time – abbreviated to T/T in places</i>		
Mon, weekly, <i>term-time (T/T)</i>	7pm–8.30pm	1 st South Ham Guides, (age 10–14), Leader: Sarah, New Members Sign Up via Girl Guides' website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus
Wed, weekly, T/T	4.30pm–5.45pm	3 rd South Ham Rainbows, (age 4–7), Lena Ponting
Wed, weekly, T/T	6pm–7.30pm	3 rd South Ham Brownies, (age 7–10), Lena Ponting
Thurs weekly, T/T	10am–11am	Playtime U5 Group, Contact: Theresa Strachan
Frid, weekly	6.30pm–10pm	3 rd B/Stoke Boys Brigade, Captain: Theresa Strachan, <i>p7</i>
<i>Other Events (including events that are once a month)</i>		
Feb & March & future dates		
Sun 2 Feb	2.30pm	JAM – Theme 'Using your Talents' , <i>p15</i>
Tues 4 Feb	7.30pm	Northern Housegroup at Sonia's, 'Planning' , <i>p15</i>
Sun 9 Feb	5pm & 6pm	Soup & Cake followed by Informal Worship , <i>p4</i>
Mon 10 & 24 Feb	11am	Singing Group , <i>p16</i>
Mon 10 Feb	2pm	Church Council Meeting , <i>p2</i>
Thur 13 & 27 Feb	2.30pm	Fountain Prayer Group , <i>p15</i>
Fri 14 Feb	DEADLINE	For NEXT (March) St Andrew's Trinity E-News
Mon 17 Feb	2pm	Worship Group Meeting , <i>p2</i>
Thurs 20 Feb	1.30 - 3.30pm	'A Bit of Peace & Quiet' Taste 'Slchester Retreat' , <i>p5</i>
Sun 23 Feb	After worship	'Sonrise' Bookstall at Church , <i>p18</i>
Sun 2 Mar	2.30 pm	JAM – Theme 'New Beginnings' , <i>p15</i>
Mon 10 Mar	11am	Singing Group , <i>p16</i>
Sat 22 Mar	11am – 3pm	Spring Sale , <i>p4</i>
Sat & Sun 29 & 30 Mar Wk/End		Circuit Youth, Emmanuel Church, Oxford Rd , <i>p12</i>
Sun 30 Mar	After Worship	'Sonrise' Bookstall at Church , <i>p18</i>
Sun 6 Apr	2.30 pm	JAM – Theme 'The Big Surprise' , <i>p15</i>
Sun 27 Apr	10.30 am	Car Parking , <i>p5</i>
Sat & Sun 10 & 11 May		3rd B/Stoke Boys' Brigade Celebrate 60 years , <i>p5</i>
Sat 7 June		Circuit Musical, 'Zac' at Christ Church , <i>p10</i>
February	Various	Oakley, Oakridge & Old Basing Events , <i>p14</i>

The Mug & Biscuit, St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church is Open, (usually term-time but sometimes subject to change):



Tuesdays: 10 am to 1.30 pm (term-time)
Wednesdays: 10 am to 1.30 pm (term-time)
Thursdays: 10 am to 1.30 pm (term-time)



- We serve: **home-made cakes, jacket potatoes, toasted sandwiches & tea cakes.**
- Menu is subject to change. **Last Orders for hot food 1 pm.**
- Takeaway Available. Credit Cards Accepted.

• **The Mug & Biscuit is NOT OPEN During School Holidays**

The Mug & Biscuit is registered as a 'Warm Hub Opening' during 'Mug & Biscuit' Hours



We look forward to welcoming old & new friends.

The Mug & Biscuit Team



Any queries, **Offers of Help** – contact: **Linda Hoe** ☎: 07963 583506

RECYCLE Used Postage Stamps via the box in the Mug & Biscuit for '**St Michael's Hospice**'.



THANKS, **Bob**

Image, Pete's photo

RECYCLE Bottle Tops – In the Brown Box on the right at the back of the church.

Proceeds to the Hospice. Please leave tops in the bag you bring them in if you can. **I also recycle 'Milkman' foil milk bottle tops too.**

Thank you, Helen



'RECYCLE plastic milk bottle tops' (only 'milk' ones), by giving them to Pamela who has a contact with the Hants & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, or ☎: 012546 467702



 At 25.01.25 Foodbank – <u>Most Needed</u>: • Men's deodorant • Tinned fruit • Cooking sauces • Hot & cold desserts • Custard • UHT Fruit Juice • Powdered milk	At 25.01.25 the Foodbank – <u>Running Low</u>: • Tinned Veg • UHT milk • Nappies size 6 & above • Small packs of tea • Tinned meat • Savoury spreads, eg marmite • Rice pudding • Pet food	At 25.01.25 the Foodbank – <u>Running Low (cont'd)</u>: • Tinned Spaghetti / Ravioli • Sweet Spreads (Jam, marmalade etc) • Tinned tomatoes	At 25.01.25 the Foodbank – <u>We have Plenty</u>: • Pasta & Rice • Baked beans • Pulses • Hot & Cold Cereal • Non-Dairy Milk • Sanitary pads • Baby Food, Formula & Nappies size 5 & below • Hand soap
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More info on web: www.https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

RETREAT CENTRE SILCHESTER RG7 2NY



Come and join us for a day of refreshment and reflection at Silchester Methodist Church.

Our retreats are to enable you to explore and experience meeting with God; to be explorers and journeyers. On each day, themed multi-sensory experiences are available to choose from.

* * * * *

Saturday 8th March Being Attentive to God

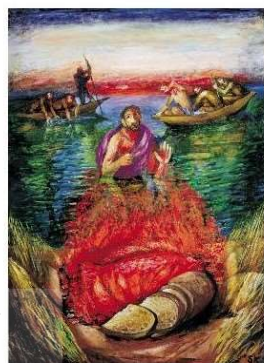
Explore how to tune in

I have calmed and
quieted my soul.....

Psalm 131:2 (NRSVA)



Artwork by Sieger
Koder



Wednesday 30th April From Easter to Pentecost

Travel with the disciples as they meet the risen Jesus.

"It is the Lord" John 21:7 (NIV)

Website: Silchester Christian Retreat Centre

For enquiries or to book for any of the Retreat Days please contact Angela Hiscock angela.hiscock@btinternet.com or phone her on 01256 850432. Numbers are limited.

All days run from 10am-3pm. Refreshments from 9.45am.

Please bring a packed lunch.

Hot and cold drinks, including cup-a-soup provided.

Suggested donation per person: £10.

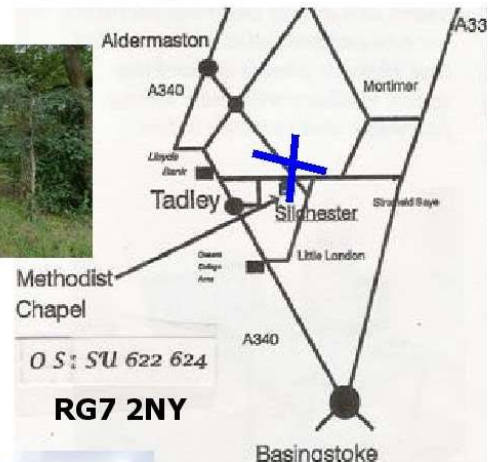
Location



Paddle.worthy.windmill



Entrance from
Pamber Road



Methodist
Chapel
O S: SU 622 624
RG7 2NY



Car parking and
entrance to hall
at rear of the Church.

Except where otherwise stated, all artwork and photos are by a member of the Retreat Leadership team.

Come reign in me (PP)

Oh God, who made the world so fair,
And formed the earth, the sky, the sea;
Who gave us ears, and eyes, and minds,
To hear, to see, to know all love is Thee.

Oh God, who in the Lord Jesus,
Gave us a light to light our way;
Let our life's lamp be lit by Him

Whose strength will see us safely through each day.

Oh God, whose Spirit gave us birth,
And holds all life secure, e'en mine;

Take all I am, and all I have,
Bless and redeem them for they both are Thine.

Oh God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One;

Blessed be Thy name, come reign in me,
And in me let Thy will be done. **by Sam Doubtfire**

YWAM – Establishing a Christian Lighthouse & Oasis in Egypt, Jan 25

'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God himself will be with them as their God'. Revelation 21:3.



I write this as a follow up to the Church presentation on Sunday 19th January requesting prayers and financial support to assist in completing the purchase of a building, the House of Hope, a Youth With A Mission (YWAM) project in Cairo, Egypt. The project continues to be ongoing and is achieving great success both in its Christian Outreach activities and in the purchase of the House of Hope building, a four storey apartment block in central Cairo, and in fundraising to complete the purchase.

The House of Hope project is now truly a **lighthouse and a safe oasis** providing a guesthouse in Cairo for Christian outreach and ministry by people from many Nations and various organisations to serve among Egyptians, refugees and the poor, giving them support and Christian witness, both to seekers and believers. It is a Prayer House, and also a Training Centre to run different schools to build up Egyptians and people from other Nations, and to educate and prepare the next generation.

The House of Hope property has been legally purchased by YWAM, who are now the owners. YWAM personnel have moved into the property and are now successfully using it for their Outreach Ministry! We thank our Faithfull and Loving God for answering our prayers in good time to meet our needs!

The deadline to pay the outstanding purchase price of USD500,000 is now September 2025. The challenge now is to fully raise this amount to meet the deadline! This might seem an insurmountable challenge, but should be seen as 5,000 donations of USD100 from individuals. In UK pounds this is a personal donation of £80, which after Gift Aid Declaration is only £65.

This is then certainly achievable! We look to Nehemiah Chapters 2 and 3 where the people of Jerusalem took on the seemingly impossible task of rebuilding the ruined walls of Jerusalem "brick by brick". They were successful!

Are we willing to commit to this and give the House of Hope a strong and permanent foundation built "brick by brick"?

'The God of heaven will give us success', Nehemiah 2:20.

'With God all things are possible', Mathew 19:26.

To facilitate donations from the UK for this Project, YWAM have opened a UK Bank Account and are registered for UK Gift Aid Declarations. Donations can be made online by bank transfer using any bank or credit card. If you have previously made donations to YWAM, please also contact this link and complete a Gift Aid Declaration which will enable your earlier gift to benefit YWAM. The Charity to be identified on the Gift Aid Declaration is YWAM (Youth With A Mission).

The link for donations is: <https://ywamltd.org/donations> Please clearly define in your donation that it is for YWAM Egypt House of Hope, to ensure that it is correctly allocated.

If you would like to find out more about the work of YWAM, their vision, and this project including a short video, please contact them at the following email address: houseofhope@okegypt.ch.

cont'd.....

cont'd.....

Your personal financial assistance and prayers towards meeting the needs of this very important Christian Outreach project are greatly appreciated. Every donation whatever the amount will turn Hope into Reality for those in need.

What does this tell us in the bigger picture about our Lord's Love and Faithfulness. I am reminded of the words of the following hymn:-

“He will make a way, Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way for me”

Blessings, Martin Frost

Our Excellent Christmas Meal had the 'WOW' factor !

Our Church Christmas meal was a huge success this year and enjoyed by over 90 people. It went like clockwork with delicious Roast Turkey and all the trimmings, followed by Christmas pud and custard, tea, coffee and mince pies (*some seconds too*). An alternative menu was also available. The meal was served in the main by the very efficient and lovely boys from the Boys Brigade with help from some of the regulars. There was **Good food, Good Company, in a lovely atmosphere** – what more could you ask for. **Very Well Done and Many Thanks** to all the cooks and helpers, **a Great Team, Hazel H**



St Andrew's Trinity Singing Group

The Singing Group had a busy run-up to Christmas with a booking at the Ridgeway Centre, Bucks, a slot at the 'Church Christmas Meal' and a slot at our Christmas Carol Service. On all of these occasions, we sang a mix of Christmas carols and other Christmas music, such as 'Rudolph'; 'Jingle Bells'; 'Mary's Boy Child' and 'Little Donkey' etc. And we hope that a good time was had and enjoyed by all.



We regularly have about 16 at our get togethers, but have about 25 or so who come along to sing with us, singing a variety of different songs, some old and some not so old, such as 'film and show music'; family favourites such as 'I do like to be beside the seaside'; and 'O when the Saints' etc. But we would probably have a go at anything that takes our fancy.

Previously we sang at the Church Social back in June and the Church Harvest Supper, end of September. Below are a few photos from our Christmas outings.

If anyone would like to come along and join us, you would be most welcome, especially a few more men. We have three men at the moment, but we're sure they would be glad of some more support. If you want to know anything more about the Singing Group, have a word with Peggy Wood. **The Singing Group next meet on Monday 10 February, 11 am.**

Hazel Harris



Chaplaincy Prayer Letter, January 2025



The start of a new year is a time for assessment and commitment and we at the Chaplaincy look forward to engaging with the people of the town for another year. We thank you for your support and look forward to continuing our partnership in the Gospel with you. We value your prayers that we may support people well and use opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Christmas and Epiphany reminded us that God comes to us – God meets us where we are and in a meaningful way, however that may be. That may be challenging when someone is cursing their luck, suffering illness or worried about someone dear to them. A Chaplain may be the person who engages, supports and can point out that God is alongside us if we want to meet with Him. Whether as a defendant, witness, supporter or staff, the Magistrates' Court can be a place of crisis and stress. Many jobs have greater stress and insecurity these days. Some people we meet on the streets are lonely or just drifting. Jesus could be found on the streets meeting those who struggled in society. Other people face the challenges of life too but, as someone told me, "I stuck on a smile and did my job serving others"; a Chaplain saw through the façade and gave support. Off-loading to a Chaplain can be a first step to getting support and finding greater meaning in life. Journeying with God does not necessarily start in church, but that journey should move towards joining a supportive congregation.

So, we are all in this together! One body with very many parts.

We are still keen to recruit more Chaplains. We need 2 more to support Tim, Pam and Eric in the Courts, and several more to cover properly the areas to which we are committed. If you can get on with people and can regularly give at least one morning a fortnight to engaging and listening to people maybe God is calling you. Or maybe you can prompt someone to seriously consider joining us. Our taster sessions with a Chaplain are unconditional; we are pleased to show any supporter what we do. If a person feels that being a Chaplain is not their calling, that too is fine.

Please continue to pray for the welfare of the town and for the Chaplains to have God-inspired contact with people. And may 2025 bring many blessings to you.

John Hayward Chair of Trustee

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☎: 01256 842232



- 65 years ago, on 8 Feb 1960 Queen Elizabeth II issued an Order-in-Council stating that she and her family would be known as the House of Windsor, and that her descendants would use the surname Mountbatten-Windsor.

Mayor's Charity Concert

Saturday 1 March 2025, at 7.30 pm

@ The Anvil, Churchill Way, Basingstoke RG21 7QR

His Worshipful Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane invites you to attend the Mayor's Charity Concert in aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal on 1 March 2025 at the Anvil.

The Concert returns with a programme of music which includes something for everyone.

This year's event will celebrate the key anniversaries of the 250th year of Jane Austen within the Borough and in nearby Steventon, as well as commemorate VE Day 80th Anniversary. These themes reflect the Mayor's principle of fostering community cohesion by bringing people together to enhance the wellbeing of all.

This is a great opportunity to support the Mayor's Charity Appeal, focusing this year on the North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group, and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation.

More information can be found here – [Mayor's Charity Appeal](#)

Basingstoke Choral Society

*is delighted to present their
spring concert:*

**Sunday 30 March 2025
7.30 pm**

Anvil Theatre – Basingstoke

Conductor: David Gibson

Accompanied by professional orchestra and soloists.

To book: anvilarts.org.uk

Programme:

Ralph Vaughan Williams:

A Sea Symphony and Toward the Unknown Region

Benjamin Britten:

Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes

Our programme this spring is inspired by the beauty and grandeur of the sea and showcases two major British composers. We are delighted to be joined once again by our friends from **Croydon Philharmonic Choir**, as well as a professional orchestra and soloists, making this a concert not to be missed, so join us on our seaward travels.



- Let us make
God the
beginning and
end of our love,
for He is the
fountain from
which all good
things flow and
into him alone
they flowback.
Let Him
therefore be the
beginning of our
love – *Richard
Rolle*

* * * *

- We talk about
heaven being so
far away. It is
within speaking
distance to
those who
belong there –
D L Moody

* * * *

- 20 years ago, on 14 February 2005 YouTube, the online video-sharing service, was founded. It was purchased by Google in 2006.

For the Young & Young at heart

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

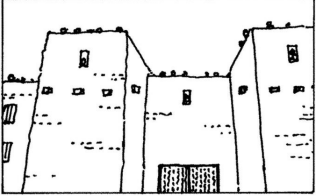
It can be read in the Bible in Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

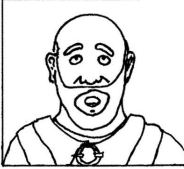
The people in Jericho locked the town gates.



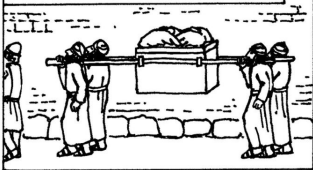
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua what to do.



On the first day, the priests carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets, and walked round Jericho once.



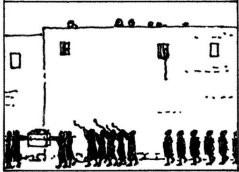
The army followed not saying a word.



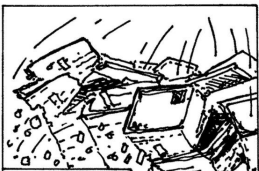
They did this for 6 days.



On the 7th day they walked round 7 times.

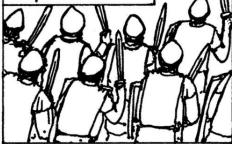


The army gave a victory shout!



The walls of Jericho collapsed.

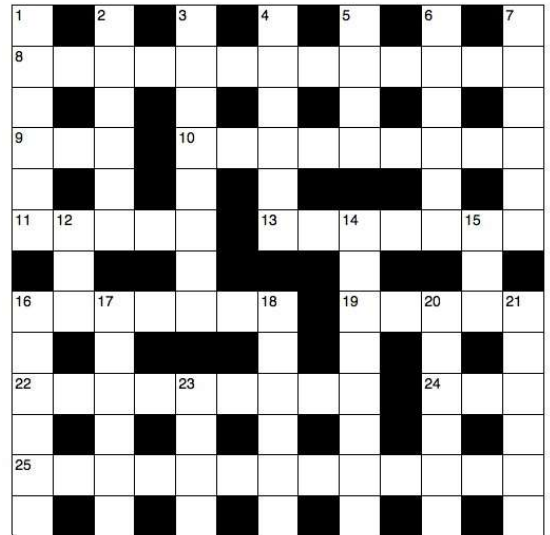
The army rushed into the town and captured it.



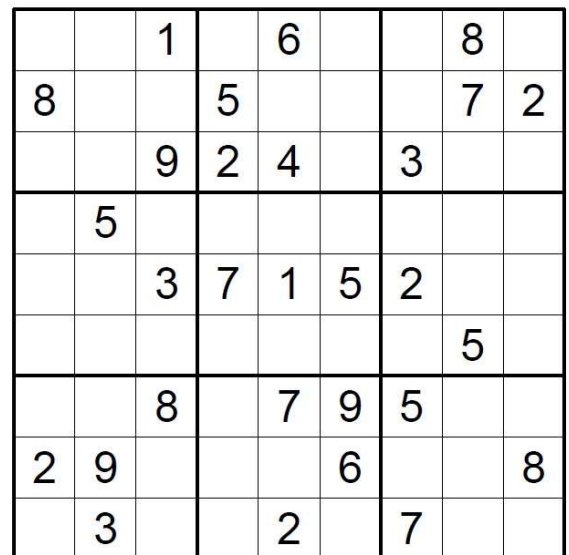
Jericho was destroyed.

PUZZLES

Crossword



Sudoku

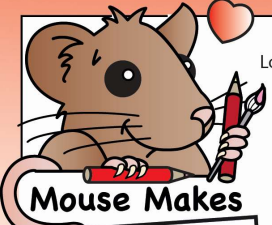


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N R S U N D A Y S I N R C N
A O F O R T N I G H T N H U
M M A T T H I A S A Y M R E
I A I O L E L M T N N O I P
N N R O A H O F T N A A S O
G C T T H O L O C A U S T V
C E R N E D U C A T I O N E
T V A L E N T I N E C L E R
W E D D I N G E D M O S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

Wordsearch – February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, Education Sunday and National Nest Box Week.....

Naming	Christ	Candlemas
Simeon	Anna	Temple
Love	Romance	Valentine
Matthias	Fairtrade	Fortnight
Coffee	Bananas	Chocolate
Justice	Poverty	Nest Box
Marriage	Wedding	Holocaust
Leprosy	Education	Sunday



Mouse Makes

"Love is _____
 love is _____
 It does not, _____
 it does not _____
 it is not _____
 it does not _____
 others, it is not self - _____
 it is not easily _____
 it keeps no record of _____
 Love delights in _____
 it always _____
 from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____;
 His _____
 never come to an end;
 they are new every _____
 Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand...
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,
 how _____
 and how _____
 and how _____
 that **love** is.
 Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.
 whoever _____
 in **love** _____
 in God, and God _____
 in them.
 1 John 4:16

Give _____
 to the Lord, for He is _____
 his steadfast **love** _____
 endures
 Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES GOD LOVE ME?
God sent me a saviour:
 He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him.
 1 John 4:9
God gave me His spirit:
 He has given you the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His **love**.
 Romans 5:5
God called me His child:
 See what great **love** the Father has for us that He would call us His children.
 1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?
 Jesus told us to:
LOVE the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul** and with all your **mind**.
 Matthew 22:37
LOVE your neighbour the same as you **love** yourself.
 Matthew 22:39

GOD • **LOVE**
 PATIENT • KIND
 GRACIOUS • PEACE
 JUST • TRUTHFUL
 TRUSTING • LOYAL
 HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERES
 ENDURES
 HUMBLE
 SELFLESS
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS

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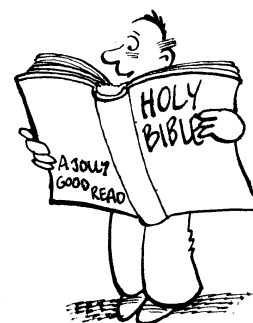
Crossword Clues, Down:

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

Crossword Clues, Across:

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

- Our love for God is the root; our love for others is the fruit, expressed through patience, kindness, courtesy, humility, unselfishness, good temper, gentleness and sincerity — **UCB Word for Today**

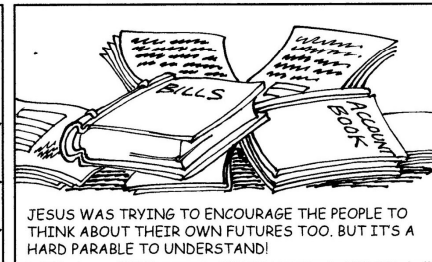
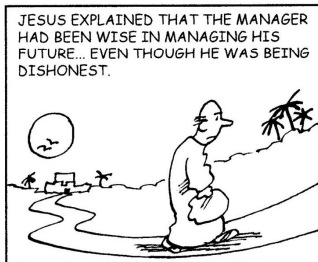
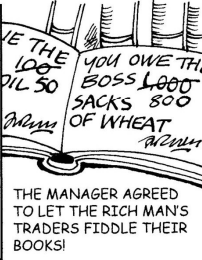
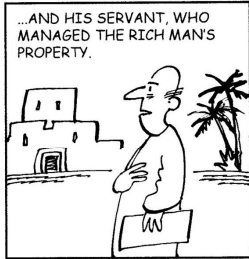
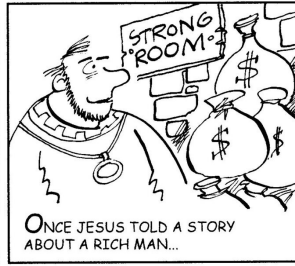


- Blessed are they who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



Puzzle Pages Solutions

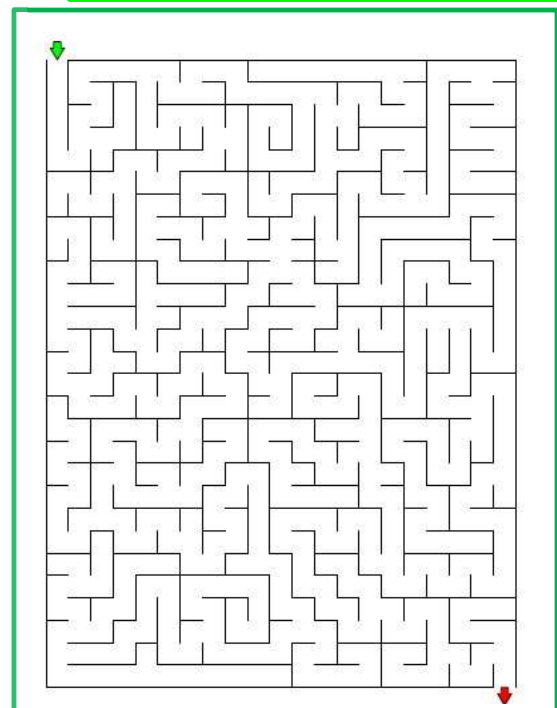
Across: 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

Down: 1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

Sudoku Solution

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

s	h	o	u	t	v	c	n	r	z	l	h	n
a	k	n	c	h	e	s	t	n	p	n	x	h
f	s	c	a	p	t	u	r	e	d	s	f	u
e	m	e	m	t	b	u	y	e	t	g	o	d
w	g	k	p	u	n	r	y	e	d	h	e	o
a	y	g	e	a	o	p	e	c	s	z	q	
l	r	p	d	t	r	m	k	i	p	k	l	v
l	y	r	c	t	u	l	r	a	r	m	y	c
s	o	i	s	r	a	e	l	i	t	e	s	v
j	v	e	t	w	j	l	o	c	k	e	d	j
l	d	s	k	j	o	s	h	u	a	v	a	a
k	y	t	h	c	f	i	g	h	t	o	w	n
r	u	s	h	e	d	g	a	t	e	s	d	f



Locked
Jericho
Shout
Once

Gates
Priests
Army
Joshua

Safe
Destroyed
Israelites
Rushed

Walls
Collapsed
Town

Victory
Trumpets
Fight

God
Jordan
Chest

Captured
Camped
Walked