

St Andrew's Trinity E-News



Summer 26 Issue

Email: StAndrews-Trinity@outlook.com

June (Quarterly)



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**St Andrew's Trinity Church,
St Andrew's Centre,
South Ham, BStoke, RG22 6ER**

**Our Website can be reached
at: [https://e-voice.org.uk/
standrewstrinitymc/](https://e-voice.org.uk/standrewstrinitymc/)
(using control & click)**

**St Andrew's Trinity
'Quarterly' E-News:
Deadline: Sept 26 Issue:
Sunday 16 August 26**

I love receiving your items,
please keep them coming.
Thank you for all your support.
Items can be emailed or given to
me. **Thank you, Hazel, Ed**
email: hazel@basingstokecircuit.net

Amazing

Were the whole realm
of nature mine,
That were an offering
far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life,
my all.

by Isaac Watts

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We are part of



Berkshire & Hampshire Borders
Methodist Circuit

www.bhbcircuit.org.uk

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name,
in earth, and sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.*

**Lots and Lots of
Dates / Events
for your diaries !!**

June 2026

Dear Friends,

How good are you at making decisions and choices in Life? Do you carefully weigh up the pros and cons of a situation or do you act on impulse and, in many cases, trust to luck, especially when you click that button 'Order Now' on an internet website? Some decisions are more weighty than others, e.g. health concerns, financial pressures or relationship issues. Others are more mundane, the stuff of everyday Life. We don't set out to make bad decisions. Yet we all know what it feels like to look back and wonder 'Why did I choose that?' Scripture invites us to take the same course of action for every choice we make, large or small – turn to God first. One of my favourite Bible verses is:

*'Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding,'
(Proverbs 3:5)*

When I read it one morning in my daily devotional passage, the words so touched my heart that I felt I would like a fridge magnet of the verse, which I would see often. I immediately rushed to the internet and, on impulse, found something I thought was suitable and ordered it. What I had failed to notice was that it had to come from America and the postage ended up costing me twice as much as the magnet itself! Now, every time I go to the fridge I'm reminded of the need to turn to God before '*leaning on my own understanding*'.

Turning to God in our decisions begins with a change of heart, choosing dependence over self-reliance. Many of us instinctively try to "figure things out on our own", especially with the smaller choices we make. We tell ourselves that God surely has bigger matters to attend to than the choice of, say, a fridge magnet. But Jesus challenges that assumption. He speaks of a Father who notices sparrows and counts hairs on our heads — details so small we would never consider them. If God cares about these

smallest parts of our lives, then no decision is too trivial to bring before Him.

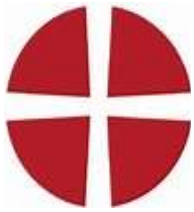
This doesn't mean every choice we make requires hours of agonizing prayer. Rather it means cultivating a habit of inviting God into the ordinary flow of Life. During Lent this year, I made up a little slogan to help me turn to God when making decisions or choices. It is STOP, PRAY, WAIT. In other words, do nothing until you have asked God for guidance and wait attentively for an answer. We wait attentively by staying available, quiet enough to notice, and willing to move when things become clearer to us — whether through a feeling of peace or, alternatively, discomfort, through words of Scripture, circumstances, or wise advice.

Worry can push us into hurried decisions; pride can keep us from seeking guidance; weariness can make the easiest option look like the best one. And sometimes, we simply forget to pause and invite God into the moment. A whispered 'Lord, guide me' when we feel unsure turns our attention towards God and, over time, helps to train our hearts and minds us to recognize His leading.

Ultimately, seeking God in our decisions is not about getting everything perfect. It's about deepening our relationship with the One who walks with us. As we turn to Him — consistently, honestly, even imperfectly — we discover His faithfulness. We learn that He delights in guiding us and showing us the right way to go.

Lord, In every choice before me today — big or small, may I turn my heart toward You. Teach me to pause, to listen, and to trust the light You give for the next step. Guide my thoughts, steady my spirit, and shape my desires so they align with Your will. Walk with me in each decision, and let Your peace be the compass that leads me forward, Amen.

Blessings, Anne Rowe



Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

**Sunday Worship at St Andrew's Trinity
and our Basingstoke Churches –
Plan for Worship: June to August 2026**



Enquiries – Joint Senior Stewards:

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The Plan is Sometimes Subject to Change

Berkshire & Hampshire Borders Circuit Plan, June 2026 (B/Stoke Churches)

Dates	7 June	14 June	21 June	28 June
St Andrew's Trinity 10.30 am 2.30 pm	Revd Barbara McIntivey, HC	LA JAM, 2.30 pm	Mrs Anne Rowe	Prof Tony Bell
Church of L Stream 10.30 am	Mr Terry Rowell	LA	Wickett	Mrs Christine Embleton
Oakley 10.30 am	Mrs Helen Watson, LP	Revd Jenny Dowding, HC	Mr Malcolm Stone	LA
Oakridge 10.30 am	Revd Jackie Case	Revd David Cook, HC	LA, Mark Tizzard	Mrs Sarah Whithorn
Old Basing 10.30 am	Mrs Judith Cole	LA	Mrs Linda Hoe	Revd Barbara McIntivey, HC

Berkshire & Hampshire Borders Circuit Plan, July 2026 (B/Stoke Churches)

Dates	5 July	12 July	19 July	26 July
St Andrew's Trinity 10.30 am 2.30 pm	Revd Barbara McIntivey, HC	Mrs Rosie Greenhalgh JAM, 2.30 pm	LA	Mrs Sarah Whithorn
Church of L Stream 10.30 am	Prof Tony Bell	Mr Peter Frank	Mr Jonathan Skeet	Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf, HC
Oakley 10.30 am	Mr Michael Smith	Mrs Judith Cole	LA	Mr Neil Graham
Oakridge 10.30 am	Mrs Linda Hoe	Pauline Crispin	Cook, HC	Mrs Rosie Greenhalgh
Old Basing 10.30 am	LA	Revd David Jenkins, HC	Mrs Paddy Jose	United at Oakridge

National Smile Month – 11 May – 11 June

National Smile Month is 50 years old this year. It is the UK's largest and longest-running campaign to promote good oral health, aiming to encourage people to brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, to cut down on sugar, and to visit the dentist regularly. Organised by the British Dental Health Foundation, the website offers the following snippets:

– *It takes 43 muscles to frown, but only 17 to smile;* – *The going rate given by the tooth fairy these days is £2 to £5;* – *61% of us have been attracted to someone by their smile.*

Berkshire & Hampshire Borders Circuit Plan, August 2026 (B/Stoke Churches)

Dates	2 August	9 August	16 August	23 August	30 August
St Andrew's Trinity 10.30 am 2.30 pm	Revd Jenny Dowding, HC	LA JAM, 2.30 pm	Revd Barbara McIntivey, B	Revd David Jenkins	LA
Church of L Stream 10.30 am	LA	Mrs Anne Rowe	Mr David Munns	Mr Jonathan Skeet	LA
Oakley 10.30 am	LA @ Oakley Junior School	Mr Peter Frank	Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf, HC	Mr Symon Turner	LA
Oakridge 10.30 am	LA	Revd David Jenkins, HC	Mrs Sarah Whithorn	LA	Cook
Old Basing 10.30 am	Mr Chris Marsh	Mrs Paddy Jose	LA	Revd Barbara McIntivey, HC	Mr Chris Marsh

Church Family Singles' Lunches

The first **Singles' Lunch**, held on Sunday 22 March was fully booked. Comments afterwards were very encouraging and very much appreciated. After the meal the people were invited to give examples of meals they would like in the future. This will help to provide variety and hopefully accommodate everyone. Below is a list of proposed future lunches. If you eat on your own on a Sunday and are part of the church congregation then this is for you.

Dates: Sunday 17 May Sunday 30 August
 Sunday 28 June Sunday 1 November
 Sunday 2 August

A list of these dates is on the notice board at the back of the church.

There are limited places. Please see Linda to book your place. The price is a suggested donation of £5 per lunch (payable on the day) unless stated otherwise.

Linda

PRAYING & LISTENING – Sunday Mornings after the Service:

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



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**

**Enjoy Fellowship & Refreshments after Morning Worship**

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



*(More Volunteers always welcome, Sundays or Weekdays.
 If you can help, have a word with **Linda**, thank you).*



Old Basing Carnival



Old Basing Carnival 20 June – we are hoping to have a Methodist presence, so volunteers would be welcome.

Our current thinking is '**Lost Sheep Theme**', **Yvonne Hunt**

27 April 2026 Church Council Meeting Summary

A copy of the Full Minutes can be found on the noticeboard at the back of the Church

The meeting was chaired by the Superintendent Minister and attended by eighteen Members of the Church Council. An action list, Health & Safety Policy and Risk Assessment and some reports (Treasurer's, Worship, Tech and Communication) were received in advance, others were given verbally at the meeting.

There was a financial update from the Property Steward. Members were made aware that monthly costs for maintaining the garden and cleaning of the church premises were increasing and the income from lettings were decreasing.

Heating and Wi-Fi issues were raised. It was agreed to spend money on replacement parts and servicing of heaters and noted that there may be the need to spend additional funds to improve heat circulation in the building.

Regarding Wi-Fi, it is acknowledged that this needs to be addressed. There is a small group (Tech/AV leads, Property Steward, Senior Steward/Mug & Biscuit lead and the Treasurer) that is currently looking into these matters and it was agreed to move to a new broadband supplier and to delegate the final decision to them. The age and security of the church computer and apps were also discussed and will be incorporated into the Tech/AV scope.

A new Health and Safety Policy and Risk Assessment were approved and are available to read on the legal noticeboard outside the Quiet Room. It was noted that Health and Safety is the responsibility of the Church Council and all users of the building and that any incidents or issues should be reported when they occur, in order that they can be addressed straight away.

A Fire Risk Assessment is also being planned and arranged by Circuit. This will be carried out by an external contractor.

Reports from other Church groups included the continuing work with children and young people. A request was made to support the Boys Brigade camps taking place in May and it was agreed to make a donation.

On the subject of data protection Council heard that the updating of permissions to hold personal information is still ongoing, The Methodist Church Privacy notice has been updated and will be available to view on the legal noticeboard outside the Quiet Room and 'The Data Protection Annual Checklist' is in the process of being prepared for submission to District by 31 May 2026.

The next meeting date is to be confirmed.

Proposed Fete / Fun Day

We were not able to hold our yearly spring sale this year on 9 May for various reasons and apologies to everyone. We are however looking into having a **Family Fete /Fun Day on Saturday 18 July**.

We are in the early stages of putting this together. The name may well change.



Put the date in your diary and look out and listen to the notices on a Sunday. When we have finalised things we will put it on the church website. If you would like to be involved in the organisation of this event please speak to **Yvonne or Linda**. Thanks.

Knit and Chat

Please note the new name – instead of 'Knit one, Drop one'.



Linda retired before Easter after a number of years service. Christine, Helen and Edna have taken over the task of running the club.

We will meet **Every** Wednesday from 1 pm – 3 pm. During the summer holiday it will be very other week.

Christine, Helen & Edna

LOOK OUT

For the Weekly "Circuit Notices" giving information about "What's On" in our Circuit and Ongoing Weekly / Monthly Services, Meetings, Events etc.

- My mouth doesn't seem to have a backspace key.
- Tax collector: a person who has what it takes to take what you have.
- Exercise daily – walk with the Lord – Anon

Mug and Biscuit + (M & B plus)

Will be running on **Thursdays during August**

'Mug and Biscuit +' is the **Normal M & B** but with Craft, Games and Activities for all the family, and a family film at 2 pm in the afternoons. Dates in August are: **6, 13, 20 & 27 August**.

Yvonne Hunt, Children Families & Young Persons Outreach Worker, Basingstoke Methodist Churches, Phone: 07462 040644.

www.bhbcircuit.org.uk



- 150 years ago, on 19 June 1876 Nigel Gresley, railway engineer, was born. He designed some of the best-known steam locomotives in Britain, including the Flying Scotsman.
- God loves His children as well in adversity as in prosperity – *T Watson*
- **Little** – We want but little here below, we're ready to admit it; and if Rachel Reeves keeps taxing us, we're pretty sure to get it – *Anon*

Slow Down, Slow Down



We live in a fast-moving world. The universe has not changed.

It still takes 24 hours for the earth to make one rotation on its axis.

Year follows year at the same speed it always has, each season comes and goes, and Christmas seems to happen before we are ready. This is possibly because mankind is persuaded by commerce to anticipate everything in a rush.

Some people have no choice, but when we can, slowing down isn't too bad is it? The doctors give this advice, and we do well to listen.

Recently from my kitchen window, I watched a collared dove sitting in the water on the bird bath. Birds often come to drink, or have a splash, but this one just sat. It reminded me of a quote from A. A. Milne's character Winnie the Phoo.

'Sometimes I sits and thinks, and sometimes I just sits'.

It's an activity which age allows us, and useful for every generation. I remember my teenage years, when I ran everywhere. Someone asked me 'why'? I suppose the answer was, because I can.

Different days now. Time to sit, to think, to pray, to remember. They aren't all easy, Phoo knew this, but his friend Piglet was nearby.

'Today was a difficult day' said Phoo. 'Do you want to talk about it' asked Piglet. 'No' said Phoo, after a bit, 'No, I don't think I do.'

'That's OK' said Piglet, and he came and sat beside his friend.

'What are you doing'? said Phoo 'Nothing really' said Piglet, 'only I know what difficult days are like. And I don't feel like talking about it on difficult days either.' 'But' continued Piglet 'difficult days are much easier, when you know you've got someone there for you, and I'll always be there for you Phoo.

That's reassurance. The hymn writer Joseph M. Scriven (1819-1886) wrote, '*What a friend we have in Jesus*'. This hymn, sung by many Christians, written by a man who knew tragedy at age 25 years, his fiancée died after falling from a horse, the day before his wedding.

Later in life, after moving to Canada, a second engagement ended, when his bride to be died of pneumonia. Yet he writes, 'What a friend we have in Jesus'. That's faith.

A stained-glass window in his memory was unveiled in April 2002 in Banbridge, Northern Ireland, his birthplace.

The world continues to rush on, but the privilege of just sitting and trusting can be ours.

The dove flew away from my garden, but the visit of the bird, was not without reward. Hopefully to the bird, and certainly to me.



God bless you,

Margaret Garland

Prayer out of Pain



All of us experience Pain in our lives, some of us more than others. We live in a broken World where mankind has taken control of it through desire for power, wealth, and authority. We, the citizens of the World, suffer the consequences of it.

Jesus Christ as our Saviour came into the World to gracefully forgive us our sins, and gave us His love, comfort and guidance to lead us through this Pain. We need to stay close to Him in our personal relationship with the Holy Spirit through prayer to guide, comfort and protect us in these challenging times.

We give our thanks to Rev. Rachel Bending and Rev. Lesley Martin for organising and leading us in this recent Silchester Methodist Church Retreat on 28th February, "**Prayer out of Pain**". The theme, "Discovering hope – exploring lament". Refer to Psalm 42:5, "Why my soul are you so downcast? Why so disturbed within me?"

Pain comes in many forms. In a personal sense it may be health, financial, family or personal relationships, and many others. In a wider sense we see it in the World around us through the continual wars that we experience either directly or consequentially. Examples being Sudan, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Iran and the Middle East.

We ask ourselves, how can my personal prayers make any difference in these challenging times? Many of us I am sure will share their experiences where prayer has resulted in relief from this pain in so many different circumstances. These are the living proof that our Lord is forever Faithful and Loving to those who live a life of obedience to Him. Sometimes we have to be patient and wait for His answer. We take comfort from these words.

"Hold on, Hold on, My Dear One, Here comes the Dawn"

I would like to share with you my recent experience with answered prayer which came to me as I was writing this article. Since the start of the recent Iran Invasion we have been praying for our friend Shabnam and her family who live in Tehran, the capital of Iran, a city targeted repeatedly by missiles and bombs. We have been supported by prayers of Intercession in our local St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church. I received a message from Shabnam by the Internet saying that after 65 days of intense bombing all around them she and her family are safe and well. She thanked us all for our prayers.

What better answer could we have to confirm that Our Ever Faithful God listens to and answers our "Prayers out of Pain"! Amen. Thank You Lord.

Martin Frost, 3rd May 2026



Cream Teas at Silchester
Every Sunday afternoon in June
from 3 pm to 5 pm.



Donations received for Church Funds.

- Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – It has no point – Anon

God of Surprises

Have you taken your walk on the Road to Emmaus? Did you meet Jesus on the way? How and where did that happen? These were questions I asked myself at the recent Silchester Methodist Church Retreat on 15th April. Our thanks to Rev. Angela Webb and Angela Hiscock for organising and leading this Retreat, “**God of Surprises**”. The theme, “Looking for new beginnings, being attentive to moments of resurrection”.



Many of us will be familiar with the Gospel of Luke 24:13-35, On the Road to Emmaus, where Jesus reveals himself to two of his followers. It is important to note that these two were followers or disciples but not from the original 12 disciples. This tells us that Jesus reveals himself to each one of us in a personal relationship irrespective of our status in our Worldly society. This meeting was a pivotal moment and turning point in their relationship with our Saviour Jesus. They turned back to Jerusalem to meet and share with their fellow disciples, but importantly they recognised and saw for themselves that God's Salvation is not just spoken in words at meetings or written words in a book that can easily be forgotten, but that Salvation is an ongoing personal relationship with Jesus who loves, consoles, guides and teaches us throughout our lives. Just as the disciples had Jesus in the flesh with them, so do we today have the living Jesus, the Holy Spirit in our hearts as a personal loving friend.

We Believers should now recognise that we are on a lifelong “Walk to Emmaus” with Jesus. He is with us every step of the way on our journey. It is a walk full of “Surprises” as we see in so many ways around us. In our relationships with family and friends, in answers to prayers, and in enjoying the changing face of Nature surrounding us as we experience the beauty of our cycle of the Seasons. The “Surprises” have no limits! With Him we can enjoy them to the full.

Are you journeying on your lifelong “Road to Emmaus”?

Martin Frost, 2nd May 2026

Nature's Surprises

In the recent Silchester Retreat “God of Surprises”, we were given the opportunity to plant and nurture a selection of seeds in a small pot. Take a look !

We see the “Surprise” of resurrection and new beginnings in Nature, and now await the revealing of its full God given beauty. I am assured we will not be disappointed !



Martin Frost, 8th May 2026

Christian Growth in East Africa

The church community is growing fast in East Africa. There were 55 million Christians in the Eastern African Region in 1970 and, 50 years later, in 2020, there were over 300 million, spread across 435,000 congregations. That is an average *annual* rate of increase of +3.5%. That is *faster* than the average rate for population growth of +2.9%. The Eastern Africa Region is made up of some 20 countries, ranging from very small (Seychelles with about 96,000 people) to the largest (Ethiopia with about 113 million). *PP*



3 GENERATE 2026

2nd to 4th October / NEC Birmingham



Tune in to God, the world and each other



What is God saying?



What next? Respond and take action

A weekend to remember for children and young people!

We are going

Inviting all young people aged 8 to 18 to join the circuit for the full weekend

Plus, any 4 to 7 year olds (with parents to the Saturday)



Dear Churches: The Circuit will be taking the young people to **3 Generate** again this year so we are inviting all young people including the Brigade.

We are currently looking for a person in the congregation of each church who can be our point contact (*this person does not require to come to*

3 Generate) just be a person for the circuit team to communicate with to ensure all circuit information is getting out to the church, If you feel you are able to be this contact, please let a **Steward** know and me, **Lee Frost**,

<https://www.bhbcircuit.org.uk>

[org.uk](https://www.bhbcircuit.org.uk)

Tel: 07586 441328



From Circuit Notices 21.04.26 – Colin How's Skydive: See picture below and link to the video. Great work Colin for a great cause.

https://youtu.be/yQhj0WZjyv8?si=cytyu_OvFOJpU2AL

Colin's fundraiser for The Camrose Centre

Basingstoke: Update. Thanks to peoples' generosity we have exceeded the £1000 target and are now at £1415 which is really great. If we could get to £1600, that would represent 1000 meals. That sounds a lot, but Camrose is open 5 days a week and serves between 20-25 people a day. Many thanks. Colin <https://bit.ly/colin-camrose-centre>



Very well done Colin.

Colin is a member of: Church of the Living Stream

Book the Date – Saturday 11 July



A Musical Celebration by David Jenkins

Oakridge Methodist Church
Vivian Road, Basingstoke,
RG21 5QB

Saturday 11th July, from 4.30pm

During this piano concert David will play a selection of music including:

Scottish Folk Tune (from The British Isles Suite) David Jenkins

Morning Cloud (from the Salisbury Suite) David Jenkins

July (The Seasons) David Jenkins

Lady Madonna (Lennon and McCartney)



Tickets, priced **£10** including refreshments, will be available from the beginning of June and can be purchased as follows:
with an online payment by contacting Angela at angela.slark0410@gmail.com
or with a cash payment by contacting Marianne at MarianneBunn1610@hotmail.com

All proceeds will be for the Oakridge Redevelopment Fund.

There will be an interval during which refreshments will be served. In addition there will be a craft stall and a stall where copies of David's prayer book "All Times" and his CD "The Salisbury Suite" will be available to purchase ...

... so please bring some extra cash!!

Trooping the Colour

A National occasion in crimson and black
No button misplaced;
no harness is slack.

The rhythmic precision of mass marching feet –
The pulse of the nation and heritage meet!

The beat of the drums, the sound of the band

The parade is exquisitely, perfectly planned.
The long months of training, hard effort applied

Build up to this moment of national pride!

The horses and soldiers all form up in ranks

The audience watching can't help but gives thanks!

For those standing tall out there on the sand

Prepared to give all for our King and our land.

by Nigel Beeton

Holy Communion

Miracle at the Table, by Nigel Beeton

Thy table is set, but no lavish spread
A simple communion of red wine and bread.
Simple yet holy – where heaven bends low
That those knelt before Thee Thy true grace may know.

We follow where firstly our Saviour has led
We listen to words that Jesus first said:
'This is My body, it's broken for you
And this is My blood, shed for you too.'

The bread that is broken, the wine seen
outpoured

They tell of the sacrifice made of our Lord.
His body was broken that we might be saved
But death was defeated – He rose from the grave!

So, kneel in the stillness of this holy place
Gladly receiving these tokens of Grace.
Then go from here knowing His Spirit in you
Will help you to do what He'd have you do!

Oakley Methodist Church
1866 2026
160th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 13th June
Open Afternoon
2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Displays from Flower Groups, Youth Group,
Lace Group and Chapel History.
Refreshments Available

Sunday 14th June
10.30 a.m. Anniversary Service
Followed by Refreshments

Everybody welcome at the
Chapel By The Pond

Boasting

Three boys in the schoolyard were bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem, they give him £50."

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy said, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

PP

- All but God is changing day by day – *C Kingsley*

Oakley Methodist Church 160th Anniversary: Our little Chapel by the Pond is 160 years old this year and we are celebrating with an **Open Weekend** on the **13th and 14th of June**. You may be surprised what goes on in the Chapel during the week so come along on the **13th June from 2pm to 4.30pm** and have a look at the displays from our groups who meet weekly or monthly as well as our Tuesday fortnightly coffee morning. We will also have a history table and light refreshments will be available with donations to charity. Our anniversary service will be held on **Sunday the 14th of June at 10.30 am** and will be followed by refreshments and a special anniversary cake.

- We trust not because 'a god' exists, but because THIS God exists – *C S Lewis*

Water of Life

All things rely on water for life
Without that source nothing would be
Oceans, lakes, rivers and seas
Without it where would we be.

The water of life is much the same
God's promise to us after Jesus came
From the fountain of life take a drink
With God's Grace you will make a link.

For life everlasting in heaven above
Trust and obey in the Saviour's love.

Jenny Leighton

Friends

Where would we be without Friends
Who could we turn to
In time of need and reassurance
A friend who is always there
When we need cheering up
A friend that we can trust
That we can depend on.

God is such a friend
To each and everyone
All we have to do is call Him
He will reassure us
And guide us on our way.

I wonder where the world would be
Without our God and without our friends.

Jenny Leighton

Oh what a wonderful thing
To be called, daughter of the King
Such wonderful blessings are
mine always
And shall be for the rest of my days.

His love covers me completely,
As He daily watches over me.
How wonderful to rest in His word
As I believe what I have heard

He never stops loving me until I
reach eternity.

Pat Murphy

Oh such freedom now is mine
And shall be for all of the time

What a wonderful life I now live
As my heart and soul to Him I give


He is so wonderful all my days
And I give Him all my praise

Par Murphy

- God's gifts put man's best dreams to shame – *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*
- The great of this world are those who simply loved God more than others did –
A W Tozer

St Andrew's Trinity Website / E-News & Flyers:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/standrewstrinitymc/>

Up-to-date information can be found on our **website**. Our **Flyers** both  (*Quarterly & Mini*) give information about all the activities that happen :
The **Quarterly E-News** magazine has an abundance and variety of different articles, dates, events, prayers, church services and much more, (*coming out in September; December; March & June*). Copies of the **E-News & Flyers** can be found in the '**Mug & Biscuit**' or in the '**Spinner**' in the foyer area at church and are handy to pass on to someone new.

We are very grateful to everyone for keeping us up-to-date with all the latest dates and happenings so we can include these on the web, in the flyers and in the E-News, thankyou, *Hazel and Peter*

A New Pattern for the Fountain Prayer Group



From Easter the Fountain prayer group will meet **once** a month on the **second Thursday** of the month.

We gather at 2.30 pm and begin at 2.45 pm with a short reflection. The rest of our time together will usually include a period of silence and some prayerful sharing. We finish the formal part of the meeting at around 4 pm.

Our meetings from Easter will be on:

Thursdays: 11 June & 9 July

Please come even if you cannot attend every meeting, **Angela Webb** (angela@webbfamily.org.uk)

We are also going to try out some different times and ways of praying in the next few months.

'The 'Singing Group'

Meets at 11 am on the 2nd & 4th Mondays monthly to 'Sing for Fun'



Dates below 'To Be Confirmed), as they are sometimes subject to change

Next Dates are:

8 & 22 June; 13 & 27 July

Everyone is very welcome to join us for a 'fun time of singing'. *More info from Peggy.*

- Prayer is more than meditation. In meditation the source of strength is one's self. When one prays he goes to a source of strength greater than his own – *Anon*

Trinity Circle

All meetings, unless indicated or announced, will take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at St Andrew's Trinity at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Our programme for the next 3 months is as follows:

- 9 June** – An evening with Bryn Strudwick
- 14 July** – Afternoon tea at 2.30 pm in Ann and Steve Walker's garden
- 11 Aug** – A Musical Evening with Ruth and Graham Midcalf

Sonia

Northern Housegroup Meets in Members' homes on the 1st Tuesday evening of the month.

Hilary, Edna & Sonia

'TUESDAY COFFEE CLUB'

Come & enjoy a 'cuppa & chat', everyone welcome. Runs alongside *Mug & Biscuit*, back of church **10 – 11.30am**, finishing in time to grab lunch in the 'M & B'! Aims to stay open *all year apart from Christmas*,
Di Spencer



(JAM) – 'Jesus And Me'

Meet: 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm, usually the 2nd Sunday of the month at St Andrew's Trinity Church



The Next 'JAM' Dates are:
Sundays: 14 June; 12 July & 13 Sept

* * * * *

JAM – Children & Families meet to hear stories of Jesus, Craft, Singing & Tea. All very welcome, do come & join us.

A Craft Group meets Tuesday evenings (**BUT NOT** on the **Second Tuesday of the Month**)

7 pm to 9 pm – Open to all, bring along your own craft, chat to like-minded people, no charge, donations welcome for tea & coffee, **Yvonne Hunt**

Old Basing Methodist Church

On the **third Tuesday of every month** – (16 June; 21 July & 18 August) we will be having a 'Coffee & Craft' morning from 10 am till 12 noon **where you can bring your crafts or just come along for a coffee and a chat. All are welcome.**



Gillian Smethurst

On the **first Wednesday of each month** (3 June, 1 July, 5 August) we will be having a Congregational Lunch, **providing a simple two course lunch**, from 12.30pm to 3pm. Donations will go towards the cost of the food. All welcome.



Gillian Smethurst

Oakridge Methodist Church

'Welcome Hub' – Coffee & Craft – Wednesdays 10 am – 12 noon

Refreshments, some craft materials, No charge, donations gratefully received.

- Tomorrow's history has already been written...
... at the name of Jesus every knee must bow – *Paul E Kauffman*
- The trouble is, we won't let God help us – *George MacDonald*

Playtime U5 Group (at St Andrew's Trinity)

Thursdays 10 am – 12 noon
(*term-time only*)



Contact: **Theresa Strachan**

Oakley Methodist Church



Coffee Mornings on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays: 9 & 23 June and 14 & 28 July (NO Coffee in August)
from 10.30 am – 12 noon

£1 for a bottomless tea or coffee & biscuits

Paperbacks available, 30p ea

Proceeds to the Red Cross

Memory Worship at Oakridge Methodist Church

on the **2nd Tuesday afternoon**
monthly at 2.30 pm on:

New Dates: 9 June; 14 July & 11 Aug

Everyone is welcome to attend this short informal service which we hope will benefit those who are struggling with memory loss or who, for other reasons, find a traditional Sunday morning service difficult.



The service will be followed by refreshments and a time of fellowship.

South Ham Churches Lunch Club

St Andrew's and St Josephs run a Lunch Club on the 2nd & 4th Fridays, 12.30 pm, at St Joseph's Church,

St Michael's Road. Open to over 55's, cost £6 per head – (*main course, pudding and a cup of tea*). More info from **Churches' Co-ordinator, Hannah Lock**. If you would like to help, more information from **Bob Lock, Methodist Co-ordinator**.



3rd Basingstoke Boys' Brigade

Are there any boys with nothing to do on a Friday night?

We run 2 sessions: 5 - 11 yr olds,
6.30 pm – 7.45 pm (£2 per boy)

and

11 - 18 yr olds, 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm (£3 per boy).

We are happy for any boy to come and see what we do any Friday night but would appreciate a call to let us know you are coming.

Thankyou, Theresa ☎: 01256 329616
(to leave a message)



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.



Yvonne Hunt – Children's, Families & Young Persons Outreach Worker for our B/Stoke Methodist Churches, ☎ 07462 040644 / email: yvonne.h@bhbcircuit.org.uk

* * * * *

Louise Craig – B/Stoke Assistant Outreach Worker, contact: ☎ 07935 077713 or email: louise.c@bhbcircuit.org.uk

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

Web address: www.bhbcircuit.org.uk

- **Cream Teas** at Silchester Sunday afternoons in June, **see page 8**
- **Revd Rachel Borgas** – the leaving service for Revd Rachel Borgas will take place on Sunday 26 July at 4 pm at St Andrew's Trinity. All are welcome.
- **3 Generate, 2 – 4 October 2026** – at the NEC Birmingham. We're going to 3 Generate, **see page 10** - Inviting all young people 8 – 18 to join our Circuit for the whole weekend.



Berkshire & Hampshire Borders
Methodist Circuit

'Crafting Bits' – (paints, coloured sand, felt, google eyes, lollipop sticks & more), contact: **Yvonne Hunt**:
email: yvonne.h@bhbcircuit.org.uk



A List of – Church Stewards & Congregational Representatives on Church Council is on the Notice Board at the Back of the Church. ALSO a copy of the Current Church Council Minutes.

All Parish Pump Items are used with their permission, (written & graphics), Hazel, Ed

- Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be, so enjoy this day while it lasts.
- God never put anyone in a place too small to grow in – *Henrietta Mears*

Bible Stories Search and Find by Rebecca Law, SPCK, £9.99

The book is a helpful introduction to the Bible for children ages 6-9. Youngsters will have fun searching for the more than 500 hidden objects across 20 fantastically illustrated scenes, while learning key stories from God's Word. This interactive Bible storybook could be an exciting way for your children to engage with the Bible while developing concentration and biblical knowledge.

Taken from Circuit Notices:**SAFEGUARDING TRAINING – foundation level**

Where	When
Mortimer Methodist Church 17 West End Road, Mortimer. RG7 3TB	Saturday 23 May 10:30am to 1:30pm
Newbury Methodist Church Northbrook Street, Newbury. RG14 1AN <i>Please note: there is no parking during the week so attendees would need to use public transport or local car parks.</i>	Wednesday 3 June 10:30am to 1:30pm
Wesley Methodist Church Queens Road, Reading. RG1 4BW	Saturday 6 June 10:30am to 1:30pm
Caversham Heights Methodist Church Highmoor Road, Caversham, Reading. RG4 7BG	Thursday 11 June 10:00am to 1:00pm
On Zoom	Thursday 16 and Thursday 23 July 7:00pm to 8:30pm <i>You are required to attend BOTH sessions</i>
Caversham Heights Methodist Church Highmoor Road, Caversham, Reading. RG4 7BG	Thursday 10 September 10:00am to 1:00pm
Oakridge Methodist Church Vivian Road, Oakridge, Basingstoke. RG21 5QB	Wednesday 16 September 10:30am to 1:30pm

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING – advanced level

Where	When
Wesley Methodist Church Queens Road, Reading. RG1 4BW	Saturday 4 July 10:30am to 1:30pm
Newbury Methodist Church Northbrook Street, Newbury. RG14 1AN <i>Please note: there is no parking during the week so attendees would need to use public transport or local car parks.</i>	Tuesday 7 July 10:30am to 1:30pm

International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services – 25 June

Each year, the Christian Police Association hosts an International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services. This year it will be on Thursday 25 June 2026. There are four ways to get involved:

- Watch the CPA YouTube channel 'International Day of Prayer' playlist
- Join one of the Zoom meetings held on the day. Contact CPA for details.
- Use the Pray 4 Your Police (P4YP) material on its Publications Page.
- Engage in its Social Media using the hashtag #WaveofPrayer

Please help support Emergency Service colleagues around the world, as they face a variety of challenges. More info at: <https://cpauk.net/events/> PP

Church Steward Training – (from Circuit Notices)

Saturday 20 June 2026, 9.30am – 12noon
Oakridge Methodist Church
Vivian Road, Oakridge, Basingstoke. RG21 5QB:

BHB Circuit is pleased to invite you to a training session, in order to support you in gaining greater knowledge and confidence when carrying out your duties as Church Stewards.

This training is aimed at all Church Stewards, both new stewards and a refresher for longer serving stewards, and will include:

- The work of a Church Steward
- What it means to be a Trustee
- Having better meetings and how to delegate well
- What makes Methodism unique

The training will be led by James Devenish, Learning & Development Officer within The Connexional Team. Please spread the word amongst your Churches.

Please email office@bhbcircuit.org.uk to confirm attendance. Thank you.

SURE ON THIS SHINING NIGHT
LUX AETERNA
Samuel Barber
Morten Lauridsen
and other songs of LIGHT and HOPE

including:
 Walk with Me Lord,
 Wild Mountain Thyme,
 Amazing Grace and
 more



Saturday July 18th 2026 at 7pm

All Saints Church Odiham RG29 1LZ

Basingstoke Choral Society

Conductor Jordan Theis

Tickets including a glass of wine or soft drink: £20. Under 18's free

<https://www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk/summer26>



BCS is a registered CIO: no: 1202484

Basingstoke Choral Society presents an evening of light and hope

Saturday 18 July 2026
at: 7 pm

All Saints Church, Odiham
Conductor: Jordan Theis
Accompanied by:
 Piano & Organ

We present an evening of inspirational music celebrating the hope and joy of community, featuring the radiant lyricism of Samuel Barber's *Sure on This Shining Night*, the heartfelt beauty of Mark Wilberg's *Amazing Grace*, selections from Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs*, the luminous serenity of Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, and the folk-inspired charm of Jacob Narverud's *Wild Mountain Thyme*, all part of a programme of works written or arranged by American composers.

Tickets: £20 under 18's free.

A glass of wine or soft drink included in ticket price available from 6pm.

To Book: <https://www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk/summer26>

Chaplaincy Prayer Letter April 2026



LISTEN UP!

May the marvel of Easter amaze you and the joy of Easter remain with you! The disciples went from “What is Jesus talking about?” through “What disaster has happened?” to “This seems unbelievable!” Then reality started sinking in and the risen Lord Jesus graciously explained the unimaginable events that had happened in fulfilment of God's promises and prophecy. Like a cryptic crossword clue, understanding the clue may come when the answer has been revealed!

Chaplains want to spread this good news but at a recent training day we were reminded that we need first to listen to each person we meet.

Many people want to talk to let out some of their frustrations or think through concerns, so they need a friendly person to listen to them. We all want to be seen, heard and cared for, however we feel, whatever our circumstances. People are also searching for meaning in life. We may meet a homeless person, a shop assistant, a discussion group member or someone affected by a crime attending the magistrates' courts. Our presence shows we care, as does our listening. Maybe we can speak into a situation, and God gives us the words we need. In their letters Peter and James tell believers to live as Christians, loving our neighbours and, when asked why we do that, then to share the good news.

We can all do that, but Chaplains in uniform are a clearly identifiable expression of Christians caring for others, so we are visibly open to being asked about faith matters - which some people do. After a brief conversation asking what happens when we die, one person is now seeking God through a local church and feeling God cares about them. An angry person was given space to reflect on where their life was going and, months later, told the Chaplain of turning their life around.

By engaging with one another each of us can “show and tell” to make the community a better place. We all have a message of good news. In a world of uncertainties and divisiveness we can offer God's way of reconciliation and love.

If you are a good listener and would like to consider joining us we would welcome you. Come for a chat to find out more and shadow a Chaplain to test your calling. There are different roles and we can find the right one for you.

Please continue to pray for us. Thank you for your financial support too; we welcome donations from individuals as well as churches. Also, we are looking for a part time administrator, paid for 2 mornings a week. Details from Libby by phone or email. Thank you for your interest and support. May God bless us in His service.

John, John Hayward
Chair of Trustees

Chaplaincy Prayer Letter, April 2026, *cont'd*.....

Prayer requests – Please:

- Give thanks for the conversations that have brought people together in the community, including participating in an Iftar meal with Muslim friends and others.
- Thank God that we have increased our presence in the law courts to 5 mornings a week.
- Pray for further opportunities to engage with people, especially those who feel isolated or sidelined and those with great anxieties. Ask for wisdom for chaplains in listening and responding to concerns expressed.
- Pray for those who are searching for meaning in life, that they will look to the church and find Christ.
- Pray for the welfare of all in our town and for those who keep us safe.

Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy

Suite 1, Paddington House, Festival Place,
BStoke, RG21 7LJ

☎: 01256 842232

admin@basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk

www.basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk

Chaplaincy Bank Details:

Basingstoke Town

Chaplaincy Trust

CAF Bank

Account: 00036785

Sort code: 40-52-40



A Fun Story about how an outbreak of measles gave girl choristers their chance.....

60 years of Girl Choristers at St David's Cathedral

St David's Cathedral recently marked 60 years since girl choristers first sang in the Cathedral Choir with a celebratory evensong. It was in April 1966 that the Cathedral Choir were busy preparing for a BBC radio broadcast of choral evensong, when in the days leading up to the recording, numerous boy choristers succumbed to a measles outbreak that was spreading through the local primary schools. Facing the prospect of no choristers being well enough to perform, Organist and Master of the Choristers Peter Boorman approached music teacher Rosalyn Charles, and asked if the girls of Ysgol Dewi Sant school choir may be able to sing.

The school, Dean and Chapter all approved the emergency measure, and following a successful broadcast on 20 April 1966, chapter agreed in July 1966 that the girls were to become full choristers. Ever since, the soprano line in the Cathedral Choir has been sung by girls aged 8-18, drawn from St David's and, more recently, further afield in Pembrokeshire. St David's Cathedral pioneered the concept of girls singing in cathedral choirs, decades before similar initiatives were launched in other cathedrals.

To celebrate this milestone, the Cathedral held a special **evensong, with the Cathedral Choir joined by** former choristers from the past 60 years. *PP*

- **What the Bible really means....** A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means, Daddy." His father smiled "Okay. What does the Bible mean?" "It's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for '**Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.**'"

The Mug & Biscuit, St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church

Open, (Usually term-time - 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

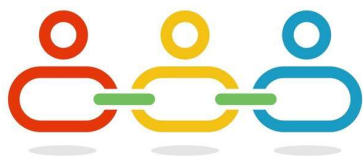


We look forward to welcoming old & new friends.

The Mug & Biscuit Team



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



TAKING A BITE OUT OF HUNGER

Basingstoke Community Food Link

For all the latest information and *'How to Get Involved'*; *'Donate Money'* or *'Become a Volunteer'*, use the link below for the Community Food Link Website:

bcfd.org.uk/supporting.html

RECYCLE Used Postage Stamps via the box in the Mug & Biscuit or *'St Michael's Hospice'*. THANKS, **Bob**



Photo, Pete's

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**



Photos, Pete's



The Foodbank Website is:

basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk

For all the latest information and *'How to Donate Food'*; *'Donate Money'* or *'Become a Volunteer'*, use the link above for their website.

'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



- **Windy** – Three elderly ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning.

The Methodist Minister observed, "Windy, isn't it?" "No", the Baptist Pastor said, "It's Thursday." The Anglican Vicar agreed: "So am I! Let's go and get a pint."

Silchester Retreats: Retreat Centre, Silchester, Methodist Church, RG7 2NY



Website: www.silchester-christian-retreat.org.uk

Discovering Strength for Today

Enquiries / to Book, Contact: angela.hiscock@btinternet.com or phone Angela on: 01256 850432 (numbers are limited).

Days run from 10 am – 3 pm, refreshments from 9.45 am. Please bring packed lunch. Hot & cold drinks available all day, including cup-a-soup at lunchtime. Suggested donation per person £10. Every Retreat includes opening and closing worship and a variety of materials available to assist you to explore the theme. Spend some time relaxing in the garden or surrounding common land. Further information contact: angela.hiscock@btinternet.com or call 01256 850432. Car Parking and entrance to hall at rear of the church.

* * * * *

Dates for Retreats:

Saturday 6 June – ‘Gifted.....’

Led by Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf and Angela Hiscock

You are loved. Your life itself is a precious gift. The world needs you, you can bring hope.



“You are the light of the world.....let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14,16 (part) (NRSVA).

* * * * *

Wednesday 29 July – ‘Who am I?’

Take time to reflect on our identity.

“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Psalms 139:14 (part) (NRSVA).



* * * * *

Saturday 3 October – ‘My Story, My Song’

A chance to reflect on your story in the light of hymns and spiritual songs.

“Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord. ²⁰ Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 5:19-20 (NCV).



* * * * *

- He who has the Holy Spirit in his heart and the Scriptures in his hands has all he needs – A MacLaren

Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:**Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson**email: revclaire72@btinternet.com

* * * * *

Church Contacts:**Diane Bath: Snr Steward – ☎ 01256 320429 /**email: dianebath51@gmail.com**Linda Hoe: Snr Steward – ☎: 01256 417219 /**email: lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk

* * * * *

St Andrew's Trinity Bookings: Contact: BobLock, email: robertlock1@virgnmedia.com

* * * * *

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

Hazel Harris, email:

hazel@basingstokecircuit.net**Other Useful ☎ & Email Contacts:****Personal Assistant to the Charity Officers:****Pat Dyer, is based in the Circuit Office, Reading,** working primarily with Revd Martin Beukes, Circuit Superintendent, to expand work that Marion Young was doing.

* * * * *

Circuit Office email: office@bhbcircuit.org.uk

☎: 0118 958 1505

* * * * *

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, for our Basingstoke Methodist Churches is: Yvonne Hunt who can be contacted: ☎: 07462 040644 / email: yvonne.h@bhbcircuit.org.uk

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We are part of the Berkshire Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit, website address is: www.bhbcircuit.org.uk**Berkshire & Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit is a Registered Charity, No is: 1134891**

Berkshire & Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit

**Christian Resources Available:****Steve Wood, supplies Christian Resources to surrounding areas via 'Sunrise Christian Resources'.****Contact Steve ☎: 07396 825097** or email for advice. Happy to help source any item needed: General Christian books, cards, gifts...Website at: www.sonrisechristianresources.co.ukEmail: stevewood@sonrisechristianresources.co.ukwww.facebook.com/sonrisechristianresources**My New Car**

My old car was a little tired;
It failed its MOT!
So then it was I felt inspired
To go PHEV.

It is a good car – nice to run
And helpful as can be!
But now my troubles have begun –
It's cleverer than me!

I used to press a button once
For music on CD
But now – I must be such a dunce –
I can't find BBC!

I got it playing from my phone
By Bluetooth link maybe?
But then what truly made me moan –
I spoke – it misheard me!

It turned my lovely music off
And played some awful sound;
I tried to speak, I tried to cough
But no way back I found!

So if you want to buy a car
To get from A to B,
Don't forget you first require
A technical degree!

by Nigel Beeton PP

- The Spirit is the source of all our natural gifts – *D MacLeod*

Diary / Dates Page, St Andrew's Trinity – CHECK OUT the Church Noticeboards TOO !		
Dates	Timings	EVENTS, St Andrew's Trinity unless advised
Weekly & Monthly Events – TT (term-time)		
Tue, Wed, Thur weekly TT only	10am–1.30pm	Mug & Biscuit is Open for drinks, biscuits, cakes, tea-cakes, light lunches, <i>(sometimes subject to change)</i> p21
Tues, weekly	10am–11.30am	Tuesday Coffee Club, p14
Wed, weekly	1pm–3pm	Knit & Chat (In Summer Holidays, Every Other Week), p6
2nd/4th Frid mnth	12.30pm	S/Ham Churches Lunch Club, St Joseph's Church, p15
2nd Thurs mnth	2.30pm–4pm	The Fountain Prayer Group, p14
4th Tues evening	6.30pm	Harrow Way Housegroup
Youth Organisations – Weekly, Mostly Term-time – abbreviated to TT		
Mon, weekly, term-time (TT)	7pm–8.30pm	1st South Ham Guides, (age 10–14), Leader: Sarah, New Members Sign Up via Girl Guides' website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus
Wed, weekly TT	4.30pm-5.45pm	3rd South Ham Rainbows, (age 4–7), Lena Ponting
Wed, weekly TT	6pm–9pm	3rd South Ham Brownies, (age 7–10), Lena Ponting
Thur, weekly TT	10am–12pm	Playtime U5 Group, Contact: Theresa Strachan, p15
Frid, weekly	6.30pm–9.30pm	3rd B/Stoke Boys Brigade, Captain Theresa Strachan p16
Other Events (including events that are monthly)		
Future Dates		At St Andrew's Trinity
2nd Sunday	2.30pm	JAM, 14 June, 12 July & 13 September, p14
2nd & 4th Mond	11 am	Singing Group, 8 / 22 June; 13 / 27 Jly, TBC, p14
1st Tues	7.30pm	Northern Housegroup meet p14
2nd Tues	7.30pm	Trinity Circle, 9 June, 14 Jly, 11 Aug, p14
Tues, NOT the 2nd Tuesday	7pm – 9pm	Craft Group, bring your own craft, p15
Sundays	Lunchtime	Church Family Singles' Lunch, 17 May, 28 June, 2 Aug, p4
Saturday 18 Jly	-	Proposed Fete / Fun Day
Thurs in Aug	10 am – 4 pm	'Mug & Biscuit +' Family Fun, games, craft, film, 6; 13; 20 & 27 August, p6
Sund 16 Aug		DEADLINE for Sept 2026 Quarterly E-News, p1
Dates from Around the Circuit		
Sat 6 June	10am – 3pm	Silchester Retreat; also 29 July, p22
Sat 13 June	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Oakley 160th Anniversary Celebration, p12
Sund 14 June	10.30 am	Oakley 160th Anniversary Service, p12
Sundays in June	3pm – 5 pm	Cream Teas at Silchester, p8
Sat 20 June	9.30am - 12 noon	Church Steward Training at Oakridge MC, p18
Sat 11 July	4.30 pm	Musical Celebration by David Jenkins, Oakridge MC, p11
Sun 26 July	4 pm	Revd Rachel Borgas Leaving Service at St Andrew's Trinity, p16
Other Circuit Dates	Various	For Oakley; Oakridge and Old Basing, see page 15

- Government expert: one who complicates simple things.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers Father's Day

Celebrating Fathers

'If you want to know how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much they make of the thought of being God's child and having God as their Father.' (J I Packer, *Knowing God*). This month we celebrate the importance of fathers on Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's Fatherhood and what it means for us.

At His baptism, when Jesus came out of the water: *'heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.'* (Matthew 3:16,17). What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with His Father, our relationship with God and the role of fathers?

The Father's presence – When Jesus was baptised, the Father was present in the Holy Spirit. It's the Spirit who enables us to address God as daddy (*'abba'*, Galatians 4:6) in an intimate way. God is present with us and understands our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. Dads should relate to their children like this.

The Father's love – The Father described His Son as *'beloved'*; like us, Jesus was the subject of God's unconditional love. Dads should assure their children of their constant, undeserved love.

The Father's pleasure – The Father tells Jesus that He is *'well pleased'* with Him, as He embarked on His public ministry. We need to hear this as well, especially when we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. We should also be aware of the effect of our words spoken to our children. Dads should be using every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong. *PP*

The story behind the HYMN: 'Lord, for the years' by Timothy Dudley Smith

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!" Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, on his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral. The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn were true for Queen Elizabeth herself. She would have celebrated her 100th birthday this April, and her 'official' birthday on the second Saturday in June. She did indeed thank God *'for the years Your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...* And so indeed the 'extra' verse added for the Queen also held true: *Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living, Christ and his kingdom one united aim, Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving, Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.* *PP*

For the Young & Young at heart (PP)

PUZZLES Crossword

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in 1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..

Panel 1: "I will fight the best soldier in Israel's army and if I win, you will be our slaves"

Panel 2: "David's brothers were in Israel's army. He came to bring them food, and he heard Goliath."

Panel 3: "David's brothers were not happy."

Panel 4: "He is insulting God!"

Panel 5: "You just came to watch the fight. Go back to your few sheep."

Panel 6: "But David didn't stop.."

Panel 7: "We shouldn't be cowards. I will fight him!"

Panel 8: "I have killed lions and bears with God's help."

Panel 9: "and King Saul heard what he said."

Panel 10: "You don't stand a chance."

Panel 11: "You can wear my armour."

Panel 12: "I can't move with all this on!"

Panel 13: "He took his sling and chose 5 stones from the stream bed."

Panel 14: "Goliath couldn't believe what he saw."

Panel 15: "Do you think I'm a dog that you have come with a stick?"

Panel 16: "I have come to fight you in the name of the All-powerful God. The Lord always wins His battles"

Panel 17: "David slung his stone and hit him on the head."

Panel 18: "The Philistines ran away, chased by Israel's army."

Panel 19: "As Goliath came forward.."

Panel 20: "Goliath fell down dead."

Sudoku

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

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Wordsearch grid:

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

Wordsearch for June 26

Mary – the virgin mother of Jesus. Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through.

Mary	Ordinary	Family
Virgin	World	Jerusalem
Mother	History	Wedding
Elizabeth	Great	Cana
Pregnant	Event	Wine
Beloved	Disciples	Dying
Cross	Keeping	Unique
Place	Centuries	Church
Blessed		

Mouse Makes

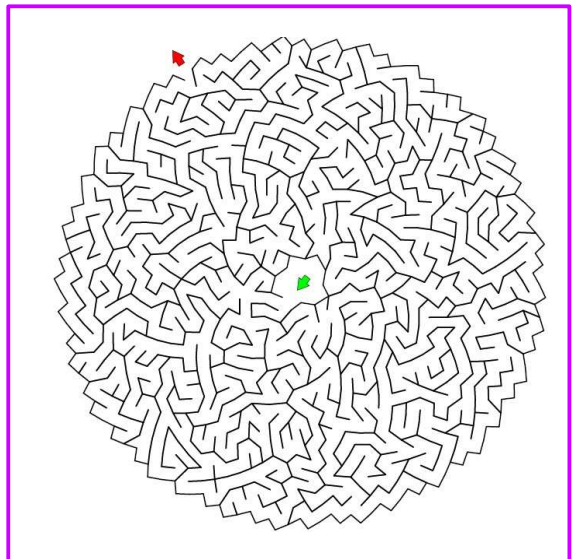
“May the grace of the Lord **JESUS CHRIST** and the love of **GOD** and the fellowship of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you all.”
2 Corinthians 13:14

V H I W V E N L R S L A E P L G H A L D O O R E M E W O R D P B R E A D W H L A L P H A E E M C G J Y R M E H O E K D M I R S S T S A V I O U R P N E S N S U O U N T L O T M E S S I A H R L G B F I S K E O M E G A	O I S D J Y I A M A C G O D J M L R O C K U A M E L O R D J I A B B A G E G T D E B E S H O Y R F E T T R A H A T Y Y G H O I E F V S W L A R A O H E Y E N T J E H O V A H I K I N G L E S H I E L D R S A V I O U R	V U D E T R U T H T H A H S R I O S P O W E R U L F L I F E P O W Y N D R A W I S D O M D B E P B V C V W T I R E O O I E R E F M C T R I A I F A N N T T R O T E A C H E R E S L G I F T D S G U I D E T H E L P E R
JESUS • CHRIST SON • SAVIOUR • LORD EMMANUEL • MESSIAH SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR BREAD • WORD • HEALER VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA	GOD • FATHER ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR ETERNAL • CREATOR KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE SHIELD • ROCK • I AM	HOLY SPIRIT GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS COMFORTER • GUIDE ADVOCATE • WISDOM POWER • TRUTH • BREATH LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE WIND • FIRE • TEACHER

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Crossword Clues Down:

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10) 12 Put in jail (Acts 22:19) (8)
- 14 Aceturn (anag.) (7)
- 16 Discharge (Acts 21:3) (6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!' (Revelation 19:7) (4)



Crossword Clues Across:

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (4)
- 11 Fraud (2 Corinthians 6:8) (8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling (Genesis 26: 25) (4)
- 21 'As for man, his days are like—, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.) (7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across (Romans 13:4) (10)



Pentecost

• A Christian is never in a state of completion but always in a process of becoming – *Martin Luther*

The tale of the Salt and Light

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

HE ONE EXPLAINED TO HIS FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE A BIT LIKE SALT!

IN JESUS' DAY, SALT WAS VERY PRECIOUS. IT HELPED PRESERVE FOOD...

...AND SALT GAVE FLAVOUR. IT WAS VERY USEFUL INDEED

JESUS ALSO SAID HIS FOLLOWERS SHOULD BE LIKE LIGHTS

'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS

THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD...

JUST LIKE A CITY BUILT ON A HILL!

Puzzle Pages Solutions

Across: 1, Wickedness. 7, Harpist. 8, Teach. 10, Side. 11, Impostor. 13, Encamp. 15, Saddle. 17, Ignorant. 18, Tent. 21, Grass. 22, Olivier. 23, Wrongdoers.

Down: 1, World. 2, Crib. 3, Entomb. 4, National. 5, Started. 6, Whispering. 9, Harvesters. 12, Imprison. 14, Centaur. 16, Unload. 19, Evils, 20, Give.

Sudoku Solution, medium

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

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

Father's Day Sunday 21 June



Soldier	Heard	Watch	Insulting	Stone	Israel	Army
Armour	Chased	Cowards	Brothers	Believe	Lions	Stick
Slung	Food	David	Philistines	Goliath	Chance	Slaves
Saul	Battles	Head				