

St Andrew's Trinity E-News



Autumn 26 Issue

Email: StAndrews-Trinity@outlook.com

Sept (Quarterly)



Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
2 Corinthians 9: 6



**Our Minister is:
Revd Claire Simpson**

☎: 01256 323103

email: revclaire72@btinternet.com



**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/>

(using control & click)

**St Andrew's Trinity
'Quarterly' E-News:
Deadline: Dec 26 Issue:
Sunday 15 November 26**

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

- God is a little like American Express – don't leave home without Him – *Anon*

We are part of



Berkshire & Hampshire Borders
Methodist Circuit

www.bhbcircuit.org.uk

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September 2026

Dear Friends,

This year has been a time when records have been broken many times, though not in a way that was welcomed! Heatwaves have become a new norm, drought a reality for large areas, gardens bleached by the sun and heat, and wildfires devastated large areas around the country.

All of this leading up to harvest time when farmers throughout the UK & Europe (as well as around the world) pray for rain to fall but not in such a way that brings further destruction and flooding!

Speaking in both Matthew's and Luke's gospel accounts, Jesus speaks to anxiety among the disciples about their decision to follow him, how they will have enough to eat and clothes to wear. An anxiety that is still present for many people today as they struggle with the cost of living crisis and how they will manage when winter comes and the heating needs to be turned on!

Jesus says to 'Look at the birds' who God the Father takes care of. That we are worth much more than birds!

Next he says to 'Look at the wild flowers' who God has given brighter coloured clothes than King Solomon had! Again, that we are valued far higher by God than wild flowers when we put our faith in Him.

Returning to the issue of anxiety, Jesus reminds us that being anxious or worrying has no positive value for us. Instead Jesus directs us to focus on what God has done for us, and what He still will do and wants to do for us, if only we will put our trust and faith in Jesus.

Harvest is a time when we celebrate the fruitfulness of nature and the earth, where we bring a variety of fruit and vegetables to display at church – or how harvest has been celebrated in the past when people were more likely to have their own vegetable plots

or an allotment for growing their own fruit and vegetables.

Time has moved on and most of us will buy our fruit and vegetables from a supermarket rather than growing it at home! Perhaps it is time to recognise that the harvest itself has changed in our modern world and that the fruits that we can bring to church today are those arising from the personal harvest in our lives.

That personal harvest might be expressed in many different forms. Some among us bring the fruit of music skills, others those of artistic skills, yet others bring very practical skills that we often take for granted, those of hospitality, helping others, cooking, baking, flower arranging, along with spiritual gifts of leading worship, prayer, guiding others and outreach to those around us in need.

Our personal harvest is far broader than any list I could write; each and every person has so much to offer, both to the church and to neighbours and the wider community.

One important gift we can each offer to those around us is that of encouragement to share their gifts. Some will be anxious or nervous about sharing their gifts and need our support in taking that step forward.

One further gift we may have is in being able to recognise gifts that others have but which perhaps they haven't recognised for themselves. Let's use all our gifts and let them be a blessing for all around us as we share the bounty of God's grace with all who need to receive it!

God bless and keep you!

Steve Smith

- A friend is someone who reaches for your hand but touches your heart – *Anon*

William (Bill) Jeram

A Family Service at the Crematorium will take place at 10.15am on Monday 14 September. This will be followed by a Celebration of Bill's Life at 11.30am at St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church.



Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

Sunday Worship at St Andrew's Trinity and our Basingstoke Churches –

Plan for Worship: September to November 2026

Enquiries – Joint Senior Stewards:

Diane Bath ☎: 01256 320429 or email dianebath51@gmail.com

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



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The Plan is Sometimes Subject to Change

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

Dates	6 September	13 September	20 September	27 September
St Andrew's Trinity 10.30 am 2.30 pm	Revd Barbara McIntivey, HC	Mr Chris Marsh, Parade JAM, 2.30 pm	Revd Rachel Bending	Harvest Festival Service (<i>Monetary donations for the Food Bank welcome</i>)
Church of L Stream 10.30 am	Mrs Christine Embleton	LA	Mr Peter Frank	Mr Jonathan Skeet
Oakley 10.30 am	Revd David Jenkins	Mrs Sarah Whithorn	Revd Jackie Case, HC & HF	LA
Oakridge 10.30 am	Revd David Cook	Revd Martin Beukes, HC	Revd David Jenkins, HF	LA
Old Basing 10.30 am	LA	Mrs Helen Watson, (LP)	Mrs Paddy Jose	Revd Jackie Case, HC

• **JAM Dates** – only September is arranged, other dates will be as announced.

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

Dates	4 October	11 October	18 October	25 October
St Andrew's Trinity 10.30 am	Revd Jenny Dowding, HC	Mrs Anne Rowe	Mr Peter Frank (<i>General Church Meeting follows morning worship</i>)	LA
Church of L Stream 10.30 am	LA	Revd Dr James Mather	Mr Nick Klingaman	Mrs Helen Watson (LP)
Oakley 10.30 am	Mr Nick Klingaman	Mrs Judith Cole	Revd Barbara McIntivey, HC	Revd Jenny Ellis
Oakridge 10.30 am	Revd David Cook	Revd David Jenkins, HC	LA	Revd Barbara McIntivey
Old Basing 10.30 am	Revd Barbara McIntivey	Mr Peter Frank	LA	Revd David Jenkins, HC

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

Dates	1 November	8 November Remembrance Sunday	15 November	22 November	29 November
St Andrew's Trinity 10.30 am	Revd David Jenkins, HC	Mr Peter Frank, Parade	LA	Revd Barbara McIntivey	Mrs Anne Rowe
Church of L Stream 10.30 am	Deacon Sarah Wickett	LA	Revd Dr James Mather	Mrs Sarah Whithorn	Revd Helen Watson, HC
Oakley 10.30 am	LA	Mrs Helen Watson (LP)	Revd Barbara McIntivey, HC & Gift Service	Mrs Christine Embleton / Mr Symon Turner, Rep	LA
Oakridge 10.30 am	Revd David Cook	Revd Jackie Case, HC	Mr Nick Klingaman	LA	Revd David Cook

Church Family Singles' Lunches**The next Lunch date is: Sunday 1 November**

Dates are on the notice board at the back of the church. Places are limited.

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).***St Andrew's Trinity E-News**

I have decided it's time for me to stop producing the E-news / Newsletter from next June, after many years. June 2027 will be the last St Andrew's Trinity E-News by me. Way back, Hilary R and I took it on, towards the end of Revd John Rowland's ministry at Trinity.

However, if anyone would like to take it on, freshen it up, give it new life, make it their own, then please let me know – I would be so delighted to hear from you.

It's been an absolute joy and a privilege to have had this opportunity for so long, I have really, really enjoyed and loved producing the newsletter, Hazel, Editor.

Published by St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church

St Andrew's Trinity Church Summer Fete & Craft Fair

Saturday 18 July, 11 am – 3 pm (*sadly no actual photos available*)



On Friday evening 17 July, a small group of volunteers transformed our Church building into a Craft Fair venue. The small hall became Tin Can Alley, Mickey Mouse, and Hoopla; three interactive games, with space for children to test their skills and let off a bit of steam.

We returned early Saturday morning to finish setting up. Yvonne and Rod put up colourful bunting around our building, and throughout the Church garden, which became our outside Tea Garden with tables covered in bright blue check cloths, and chairs to seat up to twenty people. Meanwhile in the Mug & Biscuit, Michael prepared for the day ahead by frying onions to start off his day's task as the Burger Chef. By 10 o'clock most of our volunteers had arrived, and Yvonne led us in prayer, before we were assigned to our duties.

Outside, to the right of the Church entrance, the Boys Brigade set up their Splat the Rat game. This turned out to be hugely popular throughout the day and was a great way of promoting the Boys Brigade from our Church. On the opposite side of the entrance we set up two more games, Uncle Gilbert's Marble Game, and a paddling pool for Hook the Duck. Inside the Church entrance was another game, Find the Lost Sheep, with the associated story book. One young visitor couldn't wait to hear the story and recited it to the volunteer. These little moments made our day !

Between 9.30am and 10.30am the Craft people arrived in a steady stream, and Stuart did a great job of monitoring the unloading of goods and redirecting them to the main car park. By 11am everything was ready for our visitors, with Nigel, dressed as a donkey, waiting to greet the children.

From the very beginning, this mission project grew out of the desire, as a Methodist Church, to bring the local community together, by organising a family event, and this was underpinned by prayer. Our prayers bore fruit, as throughout the day we had a constant stream of families. The children had a brilliant time and were delighted with all the prizes that they could win by taking part in the games.

The Mug & Biscuit team worked flat out all day, providing drinks, cakes, toasted teacakes and Burgers. Of the 18 Craft Stalls, two of them were interactive crafts. Sovereign's stall had lots of freebies and provided small flower-pots and paints for children to decorate and take home their creations. Eileen, assisted by Pamela, demonstrated fresh flower arrangements in cup & saucers. This proved very popular with both children and adults, and they were able to take their arrangements home with them. Throughout the day the Games Room in the small hall, manned by our volunteer and the Boys Brigade, supervised a steady stream of children, and it was probably the noisiest too.

From 3pm onwards, apart from a few stragglers, we were able to commence clearing up, and by 6pm our Building was back to normal and ready for Sunday Worship the following day. Our appreciation and gratitude to all our volunteers, and for those in our Church that prayed for this project.

We couldn't have done
It without you, it was a
real team effort.

Yvonne and Barbara



Church Garden Bench

Thanks to our Church gardener, the bench in the Church front garden has been repaired and renovated.

Please take the opportunity at your leisure to sit, relax and meditate and enjoy peaceful surroundings of the garden.

Martin Frost, 9 August 2026



New Pilgrimage Route for Conwy Valley



A new 22-mile pilgrimage route linking five churches in the Bro Celynnin Ministry Area has opened, as interest in walking spiritual paths continues to grow. Llwybr Celynnin is a figure-of-eight trail that follows existing footpaths between Conwy and Llangelynnin, where it joins the North Wales Pilgrim's Way.

Walkers can collect a stamp at each church in a specially designed pilgrim passport, creating a record of their journey through the valley.

The route has been developed amid renewed interest in pilgrimage, including the BBC series Pilgrimage: The Road to Wild Wales, which followed seven celebrities along the North Wales Pilgrim's Way.

The route begins or ends at St Mary's Church in the centre of Conwy, which contains surviving parts of Aberconwy Abbey, a Cistercian monastery founded in the 12th Century.

It continues through the Conwy Valley to Llangelynnin Church, an ancient church overlooking the valley and already visited by walkers following the longer North Wales route.

Churches included in the route are: St Mary's Conwy, St Mary's Caerhun, St Benedict's Gyffin, St Peter's Llanbedr-y-Cennin, and Llandelynnin Old Church above Henryd.

<https://bangor.eglwysyngnghymru.org.uk> PP

St Andrew's Trinity – Some Dates:

- **Sunday 27 September** – Harvest Festival Service at 10.30 am (**Monetary donations for the Food Bank welcome**)
- **Sunday 18 October** – General Church Meeting follows our Morning Worship
- **Monday 19 October, 2 pm** – Mission Meeting
- **Monday 26 October, 2 pm** – Stewards' Meeting
- **Monday 2 November, 2 pm** – Church Council Meeting
- **Sunday 8 November** – Remembrance Sunday Service at 10.30 am

Mug and Biscuit Plus + (M & B plus)

Will be running on the **Thursday during half-term**

The '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. **The Next Date** is in the October half-term and is on: **Thursday 29 October**.

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

www.bhbcircuit.org.uk



The Beauty of God's Creation

At the recent Silchester Retreat "God of Surprises" in April this year we were given the opportunity to plant and nurture a selection of seeds in a small pot.

We saw the "Surprise" of resurrection and new beginnings in Nature, and awaited the revealing of its full God-given beauty, as can be seen in this picture in May.



We have not been disappointed! We have provided the necessary care and support these young plants have required in achieving their potential and maturity, and now they reveal their full God-given beauty. The Common Sunflower, Garden Cosmos and Crown Daisies.

We have been given the responsibility of looking after Nature. The rewards are beyond our wildest dreams!

***Plants nurtured kindly
Flower in season
Carefully planted
Placed for a reason***

Courtesy West Green House Gardens inscription.

Martin Frost, 3 August 2026

OneChurch Basingstoke

Some local forthcoming dates:

- **Interfaith Walk Conference – Sunday 13 September from 2 pm – 4.30 pm**, Winklebury Car Park, RG23 8BU. Each year we walk through an area of Basingstoke. This is a peaceful walk to show that people from different communities and faiths can work together with respect and harmony. We walk to Basingstoke Town Football Ground, RG23 8BF, where we will have refreshments, a few talks and time to socialise. For more information please contact Barbara HudsonOwen: ifbasingstoke@gmail.com
- **Praise & Worship Evening Sunday 25 October, 7 pm – 8.30 pm**, venue to be confirmed.
- **Open Doors International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, Sunday 1 November 2026**. Open Doors supports millions of Christians who risk their lives to follow Jesus in more than 70 countries. 1 November has been set aside as a day for churches to pray and stand alongside our persecuted brothers and sisters.

- **Autumn** – Yellow the bracken, Golden the sheaves, Rosy the apples, Crimson the leaves; Mist on the hillside, Clouds grey and white. Autumn, good morning! Summer, good night!

by Florence Hoatson (PP)

Let Everything that has Breath, Praise the Lord



Over 20 years ago, a leaflet placed in a church, advertised '*The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland*.' It sparked interest for me.

Membership is ecumenical, with Christians from all denominations. I decided to join, and as a result have travelled the UK to attend annual conferences, held in universities, colleges and hotels.

This has been a privilege. Places such as Guildford, St Andrews (Scotland), Armagh (Northern Island), Leicester, Canterbury, Lincoln, and many others, including Swanwick in Derbyshire. This is a well-known Conference Centre, which has been extended several times.

Members come from many places, USA, Europe, and sometimes farther afield. Speakers too, are many and varied. The subject is always Hymnody, but there are so many aspects holding the interest and participation.

A Festival of Hymns is held during the conference. This year we joined in singing in St Oswald's Parish Church, in Ashbourne. Of particular interest to me, was the town which was the home of Catherine Mumford. She became Catherine Booth, who with her husband William, founded The Salvation Army. She is remembered in Ashbourne, with a terrace named in her honour.

The Methodist 'Singing the Faith,' encourages us to sing, and make music in our heart to God. (Ephesians 5 v19 - 20). Music is a wonderful way we can do this. There is no audition, no scrutiny of ability, all are welcome. The Conference Centre welcomed and cared for us all. We were adequately housed, fed and sheltered.

The years have passed. I doubt whether I will attend next year's conference in Stirling (Scotland) but I have a great treasury of names and faces, as I recall those I have shared hymnody with over the years.

All have left their mark. Their gifts have enriched me, and I pray in some way I have enriched them.

God bless you,

Margaret Garland

The Sower

He works beneath the morning sun
He scatters wide the seed;
Rests not before the work is done
That bread may fill our need.

Some fell upon the hardened way
Where clay was hard as stone,
Birds ate the seeds right where they lay
And none was left alone.

Some landed on the rocky soil
Soon sprang their leaves of green –
To wilt beneath the sun's dread boil
As if they'd never been.

Some fell among the choking weeds
The tares took all the light;
Their growth then overwhelmed the seeds,
Which disappeared from sight.

But some fell on the fertile loam
The rain fell from the sky
A hundredfold their seeds had grown
As they grew strong and high.

Let not your heart be made of stone
Nor fail when troubles come;
By no foul sin be overgrown,
But thriving 'neath the sun!

by Nigel Beeton (PP)



Church of the Living Stream flows on, 2026

The Church of the Living Stream has continued to meet on-line on two occasions each week. On Sundays at 10.30 am we have an inter-active service led by a variety of Ministers and Local Preachers and, of course, we have our fair share of Local Arrangement services. These services are not designed for a passive audience, but involve congregational participation as well as social chats before and after the service. Usually we have three hymns with words on screen backed by pictures which enhance the message.

On Wednesdays, also at 10.30 am we have 'Wednesday Fellowship' which also involves all the congregation in sharing in reading three hymns on a given theme. After the first two hymns we have a time of prayer and discuss the needs of individuals known to us whom are of particular concern. The scripts for these meetings are widely circulated and often provoke comments from people who do not necessarily join the meetings, but obviously respond to their ministry.

There are loyal followers of both events, many of whom are based in and around Basingstoke. However, we have people who join us from Liverpool, Sussex, Devon, Finland, Taiwan, Uganda and even Australia.

A particularly exciting venture over the last twelve months has been the introduction of on-line communion. We discussed this possibility at a Church Council and decided to go ahead. Claire led the first two of our communions and developed a very sensitive liturgy which other celebrants have appreciated. We supply our own elements and raise them in front of us as the blessing is pronounced. We have found that the service has a special magic and a different kind of intimacy arises from our being able to see each other as we share.

News of what we were doing led us to be invited to be involved in a study of on-line communion which Conference had commissioned Roehampton University to undertake. The findings of the research were presented to this year's Conference which offered broad support for continuation of the experiment. Correspondence hit the columns of the Methodist Recorder and a robust defence of the concept was supplied by one of our members.

We are delighted to offer this form of worship and fellowship to all those who are prevented from attending worship in person through infirmity, lack of transport or whom find themselves away from home on a given Sunday.

web site address: www.churchlivingstream.co.uk

Charmian Harrison, Pam Guy, August 2026

South Ham Clean-Up Day



I wanted to share a quick update that the South Ham Clean-Up Day will now be held on 17 September, and we will be using St Peter's Church as our hub for the day. We would love as much support as possible, so if you know anyone who would like to get involved, please ask them to register using the link below:

[South Ham Community Clean Up Day Volunteering Sign Up – Fill out form](#)

Kind Regards, **Tarlok Klair**, Community Investment Lead
Phone: 07501 626174 sng.org.uk

***This notice has been given out
 at church on a Sunday morning.***




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

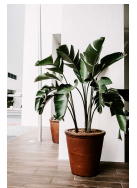
Plus, any 4 to 7 year olds (with parents to the Saturday)



The Circuit are taking our young people to **3 Generate** again this year. **Please Pray** for the young people going and the leaders going with them.

Why you May be Killing your Houseplants !!

1. **Over or Under-watering**, rather than watering when plant wants it.
2. **Tap Water** – some plants cannot handle fluoride & chlorine in our tap water, better with filtered water or rainwater.
3. **Windowsill Shock** – a sunny windowsill can turn very cold overnight & chill your plant's leaves & flowers. Slide plant about four inches back from glass at night & leaving plants on sill after you draw curtains abandons them to the coldest pocket of the room!
4. **Toxic Cleaning Products** – some cleaning products are designed to break down organic material. If you spray them into the air, rather than onto a cloth, particles land on your plant's leaves & begin destroying them.
5. **Build-up of Dust** – dust on leaves can block sunlight the plant needs to photosynthesise. So consider spraying or wiping leaves every few weeks.
6. **Light & Shade** – plants vary a lot. If your plant is leaning towards the window, it wants more light, if it is scorched or faded, it wants more shade.



7. **Watering from Overhead** – not always a good idea, if water gets trapped around plant base, it can rot plant. Many gardeners prefer bottom-watering instead – adding tepid water to base of pot so the roots can drink as much as they like.
8. **Beware little Pests** – if strange designs are appearing on your plant's leaves, or if they look exhausted and discoloured, the culprits are usually gnats, thrips, mealybugs or spider mites. Your local garden centre will have advice or treatments on how to dispatch each one of them.

Continued to the left

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

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



Up-to-date information can be found on our **website**. The **Flyers**, *quarterly and Mini*, give information about all the activities that happen at Church. The **Quarterly E-News** magazine has a variety of different articles, dates, events, prayers, church services and 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 grateful to everyone for keeping us up-to-date with all the dates and happenings so we can include these on the website, in the flyers and the E-News, thank you,
Hazel and Peter

17 August 2026 – Church Council Meeting Summary

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

The meeting was attended by eighteen Members of the Church Council, including the Chair and Secretary. An action list, reports from the Treasurer, Property Steward, Lettings, Tech, Outreach, Children and Young People, and two Circuit Policies had been circulated in advance. Pastoral, Safeguarding, GDPR and Circuit reports were given verbally at the meeting.

The Treasurer's report – forecasted that expenditure will be higher than income this year. Lettings – would fall again as one Hirer would not be renewing their contract.

Property – Building maintenance and repair jobs had been completed or were planned, and members were reminded of the importance of checking that the whole building is secure (particularly windows in the hot weather) before leaving. An external contractor, arranged by Circuit will conduct a Fire Risk Assessment before the end of August.

The reports regarding Children, Young People and Community shows an increase in numbers attending and a positive response to events such as the Summer Fete.

Tech – New broadband has been installed. There were discussions about the frequency of updates to the password and appropriate usage. There will be statement added to remind users of the expectations when using our network.

Safeguarding – There was a reminder that both Safeguarding and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training is available at Oakridge in September and that DBS checks should be done every four years.

GDPR – The two Circuit policies; Data Protection and Digital Usage were adopted. The Data Protection Annual Checklist was submitted to District by the deadline. The updating of permissions to hold personal information remains ongoing.

Circuit – The Circuit will be welcoming two new Ministers in September. Three Lay Workers and new Circuit Stewards had also been appointed.

Communication – There was a lengthy discussion about some of the issues. Church Council members will be working on solutions to some of these problems.

Two holders of key roles announced they would be stepping down from 31 December 2026; Property Steward and Manager of the Mug & Biscuit. This follows an email communication from the Publisher of E-News that they would step down after the publication of the June 2027 edition. Members thanked these volunteers for all they do.

The next meeting date will be the **Annual General Church Meeting on Sunday 18 October, after the Church Service.**

- 175 years ago, on 12 August 1851 the American inventor Isaac Singer was granted a US Patent for his sewing machine. Since then, well over 100 million various models of Singer sewing machines have been sold worldwide.

To a Fish of the Brook

Enjoy thy stream, O harmless fish;
And when an angler for his dish,
Through gluttony's vile sin,
Attempts, a wretch, to pull thee OUT
God give thee strength, O gentle trout,
to pull the rascal IN!

by John Wolcot (Peter Pindar) 1738 – 1839



Who Am I?

In our World of science and technology we understand more than we ever did about the size of our Solar System and the vast number of stars and planets surrounding us. We also look at our own World and see a growing population now estimated to be over 80 billion people increasing annually at about 75 million, about the size of our UK population. In recent BBC TV programs like Evolution we see how life both human and animal has evolved over millions of years creating many different species, and specifically each individual creature, human or animal being unique.

It is beyond our human mind to fully comprehend the enormity of the Creation around us especially as our Christian Faith tells us that each of us is individually created by God, beloved by Him, and can have a personal one on one relationship with Him through the Holy Spirit. We ask ourselves is this truly possible? Or is it meaningless religious dogma?

To explore this beloved relationship, at the Silchester Retreat on 29 July we asked ourselves, **"Who Am I?"** taking time to reflect on our identity. To answer this question we must first examine Bible verses that relate to our being beloved, the term meaning the deep, affectionate love that God has for each of us, and that we are encouraged to share with others. Equally important relating uniquely to ourselves here and now in our lives we must carefully and thoughtfully examine those verses that we actively relate to in our daily lives. Only in doing this can we have any meaningful deep rooted spiritual understanding of who we really are, that will bridge the gap between our head and our heart.

To achieve this we were introduced to an exercise, "Writing a Beloved Charter", by Trevor Hudson a Methodist minister who has served the church for more than 40 years, mainly in South Africa. He is known for his work in spiritual formation, pastoral care, and spiritual direction.

To actively participate in this exercise you need to take the time to go to Trevor Hudson's website.

<https://peaksandcreeks.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/My-Beloved-Charter.pdf>

Trevor takes us through the steps in creating and writing our Charter and gives us an example of one he has formatted in recent years of some 150 words. It is written as God sees you personally, formulated from your active relationship with Him in love and obedience to His Word.

In writing your own personal Beloved Charter you will have that truly spiritual understanding of **"Who I Am"** in today's World, confirming your active personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. No meaningless religious dogma here!

John 14:20. *On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.*

We give our thanks to Revd Lesley Martin and Revd Angela Webb supported by David Webb and Angela Hiscock for organising and leading us in this recent Silchester Methodist Church Retreat on 29 July, **"Who Am I?"**. The theme, Taking time to reflect on our identity.

Why not come to the next Silchester Retreat, Saturday 3 October 2026, **"My Story, My Song"**. A chance to reflect on your story in the light of hymns and spiritual songs.

Martin Frost 31 July 2026



Methodist
relief and
development

Education – A Harvest that Lasts

*Taken from: 'All We Can's'
'Walking Together – Harvest 2026 Newsletter'
– "Count Yourself in this Harvest"*

The Kingdom Jesus envisions, is one of justice and joy, where all can flourish under his care and live free of hindrances. Through **All We Can's** support, our partners, Pikin-to-Pikin in Sierra Leone and FABIO in Uganda, are ensuring all children have the resources they need to learn and thrive. If you haven't already, you can find All We Can's Harvest Resources at: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/harvest>

Sullay is a 12 year-old 'class six' pupil at a primary school in Bombali District, whose life has been turned around since joining a study group set up by Pikin-to-Pikin, one of **All We Can's** partners in Sierra Leone. The study groups are designed to help children keep up with schoolwork when family responsibilities interrupt their attendance. Sullay's early life has already been marked by hardships no child should have to face. His mother died when he was younger, and he moved in with his aunty. As a result of this, his school attendance was inconsistent, as he was encouraged to leave class early to help at home. He wasn't learning in class and his friends were encouraging him to misbehave.

Joining the study group was a turning point for Sullay. As well as improving his academic abilities, the study group also taught them about non-violence, respect, and good ethics. *"I've been taught to have good ethics. For example, respecting the elderly, greeting them respectfully, and, in some cases, offering them a seat if they are standing."*

Sullay says life is different now. He studies hard, and the people who used to pity him in his community are now impressed with how well he's doing – something he takes pride in. He takes part in public debates now too, a sure sign of his growing confidence and maturity.

"I am different now. Now that I am in this class I go home and I study! The people in my community ask me to go and do debates, and I get paid to talk in public."

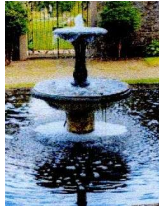
He wants to become a doctor, and so the investment in his future will continue to pay dividends for his community for years to come. The study group has not only supported his education but has also provided guidance, structure, and a positive pathway for his bright and promising future.

Your faithful support is helping students, like Sullay, get an education and unlock opportunities to flourish. In December 2025, 100 students like Sullay, attended the study groups. Ten teachers supported financially to manage the study groups. Eight child protection meetings held, strengthening prevention and response to cases of child abuse and neglect. **£47 could support 5 children, like Sullay, to take part in study groups, not only improving their academic performance, but also ensuring they follow the best path in life.**

- It is not the number of books you read, nor the variety of sermons you hear, nor the amount of religious conversation in which you mix, but it is the frequency and earnestness with which you meditate on these things till the truth in them becomes your own and part of your being, that ensure your growth.

F W Robertson

New Pattern for the Fountain Prayer Group



The Fountain prayer group now 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 next meetings are on:

Thursdays: 10 Sept; 8 Oct and 12 Nov

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

We are also going to try 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'
The Dates below are 'To Be Confirmed' as sometimes dates are subject to change.

The Next Dates are: 28 September; 12 & 26 October & 9 & 23 November
Everyone is very welcome to join us for a 'fun time of singing'. *More info from Peggy.*

'Knit and Chat'

Is 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 meet **Every Wednesday** from 1pm – 3pm. During the summer holiday we'll meet every other week.

Christine, Helen & Edna

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:

8 September – 'Holiday Memories' – Margaret Hayes

13 October – 'Action for Children' – Ann Walker

10 November – 'Games Night' – The Committee

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 **10am – 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 from: 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm,
usually the 2nd Sunday of the month at St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church.



The Next 'JAM' Date is Sunday: 13 September. Future Dates to be announced.

* * * * *

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

Old Basing Methodist Church

On the third Tuesday of every month – (15 Sept; 20 Oct & 17 Nov) we have a 'Coffee & Craft' morning from 10 am till 12 noon. **Please bring any crafts of your choice or just come for a coffee and a chat. All welcome.**



Gillian Smethurst

Old Basing Methodist Church

On the first Wednesday of each month (2 Sept; 7 Oct & 4 Nov) we have a simple two course Church Family Lunch, from 12 noon to 3pm. Donations gratefully received to go towards the cost of the food. All welcome.



Gillian Smethurst

Oakley Methodist Church

Forthcoming Events at Oakley

- **Sunday 27 September** – Oakley Harvest Festival
- **Saturday 14 November** – Oakley Christmas Fayre 10 am – 12 noon
- **Sunday 15 November** – Oakley Gift Service for Basingstoke's Women's Refuge
- **Friday 25 December** Oakley Christmas Morning Service at 10 am

Oakridge Methodist Church

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

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

Playtime U5 Group (at St Andrew's Trinity)

**Thursdays 9.30 am – 11 am
(term-time only)**



Contact: Theresa Strachan

Oakley Methodist Church

Coffee Mornings on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays: 8 & 22 Sept; 13 & 27 Oct & 10 & 24 Nov



from 10.30 am – 12 noon

£1 for a bottomless tea or coffee & biscuits

Paperbacks available, 30p ea

Proceeds to the Red Cross

Oakridge Methodist Church Memory Worship at

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

8 Sept; 13 Oct; 10 Nov & 8 Dec

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)



A Craft Group

**Meets Tuesday evenings,
(**BUT NOT on the Second Tuesday of the Month**)**

from 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**



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.



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

Web address: www.bhbcircuit.org.uk

- **Saturday 5 Sept, 10.30am – 1.30pm** at Oakridge Methodist Church or **Saturday 26 Sept, 10.30am – 1.30pm** at Tilehurst Methodist Church – **Circuit Training** for Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, Church & Circuit Stewards, Lay Outreach Staff, Operations Manager/Resources Co-ordinator. To book a place, please email: office@bhbcircuit.org.uk
- **3 Generate, 2 – 4 October 2026** – We're going to 3 Generate, at the NEC Birmingham (**page 10**). The circuit is taking young people to **3 Generate** – Please pray for our young people and their leaders.
- **Silchester Retreats are on:**
Saturday 3 October & Saturday 28 November (page 23)



Berkshire & Hampshire Borders
Methodist Circuit

- 90 years ago, on 24 July 1936 the speaking clock telephone service was launched in the UK.

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

'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

Poem – I'm Fine Thankyou !

There's nothing the matter with me.
 I'm as healthy as can be.
 I have arthritis all over my body,
 And when I talk, I talk with a wooze.
 My blood is thin and my pulse is weak,
 But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
 Sleep is denied me night after night,
 But every morning I find I'm alright.

My memory is failing,
 My head's in a spin,
 But I'm awfully well,
 For the shape I'm in.
 The moral is this,
 That for anyone who is growing old,
 It's better to say I'm fine with a grin,
 Than to let folks know,
 The shape you're in.

How do I know that my youth
 Is all spent?
 Well, my get up and go
 Has got up and went.
 But I really don't mind,
 When I think with a grin,
 Of all the grand places,
 My get up has been,
 Old age is golden, I heard it said,
 But sometimes, I wonder,
 As I get into bed,
 With my ears in the drawer,
 And My teeth in a cup,
 My eyes on the table, until I wake up.

I get up each morning,
 And dust off my wits,
 And pick up the paper and
 Read the 'obits'.
 If my name is still missing
 I know that I'm not dead,
 So I write a wee story and well
 It's back to bed.

Fay Aird

* * * * *

It takes seventy-two muscles to frown,
 Only fourteen to smile and
 A smile warms the heart and
 Encourages conversations !

Fay Aird

Part of the Community Food Link Newsletter for July 2026, taken from OneChurch Basingstoke

Community Food Link

Summer Newsletter 2026



CFL is a volunteer led project based in Basingstoke & Deane. We collect fresh food that cannot be sold from our partner supermarkets and sort, repack and deliver it to our distribution partners, charities, schools and playgroups to help the most vulnerable in our society.

Another Busy and Eventful Year at CFL

Welcome to our Summer 2026 Newsletter. It's been another very busy year but CFL has risen to the challenge!

2025 saw the end of the cybersecurity issues suffered by one of our valued retail partners, with large and irregular donations gradually getting back to normal. May Place, where we deliver on-use-by-date food, shut its doors for a year-long refurbishment in January, this food now going to YMCA.

There have been some changes to our management team with some new faces joining. After many years looking after operations and as a result of the continued success and growth of the organisation, Penny is handing over some areas of her work to Onwa, who has been appointed our new Operations Manager.

In June our 'big' Lveco van broke down for the first time during a morning run and had to be rescued by Green Flag (more on this to follow). The summer heatwave has also been taking its toll both on CFL and also on our supermarket partners who have suffered major challenges in the last few weeks as a result of fridges and freezers breaking down due to the unusually high temperatures. However, one group of people have kept going through the sweltering temperatures and those are our amazing volunteers. Thank you all for your ongoing and steadfast commitment to CFS.

Pat Murphy sadly passed away on the 17 July. Over many years, I've been very grateful to Pat for sending me her own prayers for inclusion in the newsletter / e-news. In memory of Pat, over the following two pages, are a selection of some of Pat's prayers.

* * * * *

My Testimony of Healing by Pat Murphy



Over 30 years ago I was working as an Auxiliary Nurse in a hospital. I noticed I was getting tired and had tingling and numbness in my hands and feet. I went to the doctor who sent me to a hospital in London. I had a lot of tests and was diagnosed with Myopathy, which is a disease of the nerves and muscles and is incurable. After 8 weeks I was in a wheelchair and unable to walk. I had to leave the job I loved. I was prayed for and had hands laid on me and was anointed with oil. I used a scooter to get to the shops.

One day 14 years later (*and still in a wheelchair*), the Lord spoke to me as I was going to the shops and said "*get up and walk*". I walked for a few steps, more than I could normally. I did this each time I went shopping. After a while I had no pain (*which was unbearable*) and could walk again normally. This carried on for years and years until I got breathless and had to have a scooter 3 years ago. I give God all the praise and glory for what He has done.

* * * * *

*Kneel and Worship this baby so small,
He is Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of all,
He came for you, and He came for me.
To bring us Salvation and set us free.
What a wonderful gift from
Our Father above,
Given so freely and given with love.*

* * * * *

A selection of Prayers written by Pat Murphy on these two pages.

*So precious is your Word to me,
It encourages me and sets me free.
Your Word is powerful and strong.
And helps me as I go along.
Your Word guides me and gives me peace,
And from life's trials brings release.
Your Word is good, and strong and true,
And brings me closer to you.
Your Word brings warmth into my heart,
As you yourself to me impart.*

* * * * *

*Oh my God, my King,
You are my everything, You are all I desire.
For You set my heart on fire,
You thrill me with your wonderful love,
Given continually by my Father above.
With You is joy and peace beyond measure.
And precious gifts that I treasure.
I love you Father, with all my heart.
And from your presence never want to part.*

* * * * *

*You are the potter Lord, I am the clay.
Make me and mould me every day.
Change me completely as
I wait on Thee.
Make me just what you want me to be.
Wonderful Saviour, wonderful Lord.
I worship you for you are adored.
You fill my heart with a song.
As I think of you all day long.*

* * * * *

*Loved with such love, that knows no end, is given by Jesus, my wonderful friend.
He gave Himself, that this Love I might know.*

* * * * *

*Lord, teach me to live, one day at a time,
As I walk with You, with your hand in mine.
Praise you Lord that You have gone before,
To open up for me, every door,
Thank you Lord for this precious day,
And all that You have for me along the way.
Help me to let go and rest in your loving care,
Knowing that in everything
You will always be there.*

* * * * *

*Dear Jesus, take my heart, my hand
And help me this I pray
That I through your
Sweet love may grow
More like you day by day.*

* * * * *

*Jesus precious Saviour, how I love you Lord.
How I want to follow and obey your every word.
Make me your own child and equip me for your work,
Give me grace to follow and let me never shirk.
Then Lord lead me to your banqueting table,
Free from all my sin.
Let me praise and worship You,
My wonderful Lord and King.*

* * * * *

*Love so powerful,
So deep and so strong,
Binds me to the Father,
And to Him I belong.
Cherished and cared for daily,
As He gently watches over me,
He is always there,
And answers my every prayer,
Such Love is so great, it overflows,
As His Wonderful Love on me
He bestows.*

* * * * *

* * * * *

Saint Matthew – called just as he was (by Canon Paul Hardingham) PP

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

Jesus calls us where we are:

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

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

Jesus comes to where we are:

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

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

Jesus comforts us where we are:

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

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

Chaplaincy Prayer Letter (Basingstoke) July 2026



What practical answer would you give to the question – Who is my Neighbour?

Jesus was very provocative! Not only did he select religious leaders (the questioner was one) to demonstrate failure but Jesus chose a member of a group his hearers treated with contempt as a supreme example of someone acting as a good neighbour. Jesus pushed the boundaries as to who is a neighbour, and how much they should give, which was surely seen as beyond the call of duty. Place ourselves in the story: where do we fit in? Perhaps we see ourselves as ambushed by life and made helpless but the Perfect Neighbour comes and rescues us at considerable risk and with unbelievable generosity; so 'love your neighbour' becomes 'do as has been done for you'.

Good neighbours were found when Chaplains visited churches in Basingstoke this spring. We were warmly welcomed and we heard about the many activities caring for the wider community and making Jesus known. Different churches, different locations and roles, but One Body in Christ responding to the great diversity of people who make up the community in Basingstoke.

Engaging with the people around us with a smile or a pleasantry, a listening ear or a word of encouragement, is something we all do anyway; we really need more people to do this as town centre Chaplains too. Our uniform shows that someone cares and it can open up conversations. There may be just a nod of acknowledgement but also occasions when a person unloads their concerns on a sympathetic listener. A few Chaplains are based in the magistrates' courts but we need another one to ensure a daily presence there. We are also available to people working in shops and offices, support other groups providing services in the town or join discussion groups. Just being in the town centre has led to comments that people are glad there is someone available to talk to, even if they have not needed to do so themselves. It is not unusual to be asked to pray for someone, either on the spot or after a meeting.

Chaplains have also been involved in shared hospitality, especially with Turkish Muslim friends, who provided a communal meal for a group of us last month. Together we continue to explore what it means to care for one another while also recognising our differences. A broader act of community togetherness is being planned for September.

Might some aspect of this be for you as part of your promotion of Christian neighbourliness? Could you recommend this to a friend? We look for a minimum commitment of 2 hours a fortnight and we provide initial training and then practical support and guidance. You are welcome to see what we do in a taster session with a Chaplain before making any commitment. Get in touch! Thank you for your prayerful support and the donations which keep us going,

John, John Hayward Chair of Trustees

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

Prayer requests – Please:

Thank God:

- that we have freedom to live as Christians and opportunities to share God's grace
- for the services that churches provide to support the community and those in special need

Please pray:

- for a harmonious community where people feel safe
- for greater understanding of each other and co-operation for the common good
- for those working in the heat (this summer is forecast to have several hot spells)
- for people in distress of different kinds (we met them in the courts, on the streets, working in shops and connected to different agencies)
- for Pam, a long-serving Chaplain, who is seriously ill
- for wisdom in appointing a new administrator

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



What's the Big Idea? – An Introduction to the Book of Daniel in the Old Testament (by Canon Paul Hardingham) PP

The book of Daniel describes his life in Babylon during the sixth century BC, when he served both Babylonian and Persian rulers. As a teenager, Daniel and his three friends were deported in 605 BC to Babylon, where he lived for over 70 years. They were trained as officials in King Nebuchadnezzar's court for three years. Their names and diets were changed to reflect Babylonian culture and take away their Jewish identity. However, Daniel and his friends showed the superiority of their Jewish diet and gained the favour of the king.

Chapters 1 - 6 are largely narrative, with Daniel and his friends (renamed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego) demonstrating that God is in control. The three friends refused to worship the pagan Babylonian gods and were thrown into a fiery furnace. However, they emerged unharmed because of God's miraculous protection. He also delivered Daniel from a den of lions when he refused to worship the Persian king Darius. Daniel also interpreted several visions and dreams for King Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. The second half of the book (chapters 7 - 12) consists of a series of visions, which show that God is in control of history.

The book affirms that God is the sovereign ruler of the world and rewards His faithful servants, as expressed by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego: *'If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.'* (Daniel 3: 17,18)

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**



**& 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

RECYCLING of Bottle Tops – We have now STOPPED collecting plastic milk bottle tops.

St Michael's Hospice are no longer collecting plastic milk bottle tops and the Hants & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance have also stopped as the cost has gone up and the Council now recycle them. Our thanks to both Helen and Pamela who have done a marvellous job and to everyone who has supported them.



Photo,
Pete's

However, Helen is still able to collect the milk bottle foil tops.



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



**Basingstoke
Foodbank**
Together with Trussell

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.

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 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).



* * * * *

Saturday 28 November – 'Advent Adventure'

Discover treasure

"and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Luke 2:18-19 (NIV)



* * * * *

All artwork and photos are by a member of the Retreat Leadership Team or free clipart.

RECYCLE Used Postage

Stamps via the box in the Mug & Biscuit or 'St Michael's Hospice'.

THANKS, **Bob** Photo, Pete's



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

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

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: Bob Lock, email: robertlock1@virginmedia.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 Border Methodist Circuit

**Christian Resources Available:**

Steve Wood, supplies Christian Resources to surrounding areas via 'Sonrise 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.uk
Email: stevewood@sonrisechristianresources.co.uk
www.facebook.com/sonrisechristianresources

NELSON MASS**Joseph Haydn****REQUIEM****Michael Haydn****Basingstoke Choral Society****Docklands Sinfonia****Conductor Jordan Theis****Sunday November 15th 2026****The Anvil Basingstoke RG21 7QR**

Tickets: The Anvil Box Office: 01256 844244
 or www.anvilarts.org.uk



BCS is a registered Charity: No: 1202484

Conductor: Jordan Theis
Orchestra:

The Docklands Sinfonia**Programme:****Joseph Haydn Nelson Mass****Michael Haydn Requiem**

Book: <https://www.anvilarts.org.uk/events/basingstoke-choral-society>



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

Diary / Dates Page, St Andrew's Trinity – <u>CHECK OUT</u> the Church Noticeboards TOO !		
Dates	Timings	<u>EVENTS</u>, at 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> p22
Tues, weekly	10am–11.30am	Tuesday Coffee Club, p14
Wed, weekly	1pm–3pm	Knit & Chat (In Summer Holidays, Every Other Week), p14
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, Term-time (except BB) – 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 – email: rainbows.3rdsouthham@hotmail.com – Link to Register a child is in left-hand column
Wed, weekly TT	6pm–7.30pm	3rd Basingstoke Brownies, (age 7–10), Lena – email: brownies3rdbasingstoke@hotmail.com – Link to Register a child is in left-hand column
Thur, weekly TT	9.30am–11am	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)		
Forthcoming Dates		At St Andrew's Trinity
1st Tues	7.30pm	Northern Housegroup meet 1st Tuesday of the month, p14
2nd Tues	7.30pm	Trinity Circle meet 2nd Tuesday of the month, p14
2nd Sunday	2.30pm	JAM, 13 September, Future dates to be announced, p14
Mond 14 Sept	11.30 am	Celebration of Bill Jeram's life at St Andrew's Trinity
Sat 26 Sept	6.30 pm	Church Family Harvest Supper at church
2nd & 4th Mond	11 am Mondays	Singing Group meet: 28 Sept / 12 & 26 Oct / 9 & 23, Nov p14
2 – 4 October	Weekend	Circuit young people going to 3Generate, NEC, p10
Tues, <u>NOT</u> the 2nd Tuesday	7pm – 9pm	Craft Group, Tuesday evenings, but <u>NOT</u> 2nd Tuesday of the month. Bring your own craft, p16
Sund 18 Oct	After worship	General Church Meeting follows morning worship, p6
Monday 19 Oct	2pm	Mission Meeting at church, p6
Monday 26 Oct	2pm	Stewards' Meeting at church, p6
Thurs 29 Oct	10am – 4pm	'Mug & Biscuit Plus +' Family Fun, games, craft, film, p6
Sunday 1 Nov	Lunchtime	Church Family Singles' Lunch, Sunday 1 Nov, p4
Monday 2 Nov	2 pm	Church Council Meeting, p6
Sund 15 Nov		<u>DEADLINE</u> for Dec 26 Quarterly E-News, p1
Dates from Around the Circuit		
Sat 3 Oct/28 Nov	10am – 3pm	Silchester Retreats, p23
Various dates		Oakley, Old Basing & Oakridge, p15

- 50 years ago, on 29 July 1976 the pier-head of Southend Pier in Essex was destroyed by fire, world's longest pier. Re-opened 1986, but a tanker crashed into it, creating a 70-foot gap. Reopened 1989, but two further fires, 1999 & 2005, caused much damage. Reopened July 2012.

For the Young & Young at heart (PP)

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

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

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

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

This was allowed (Deut 23:25), but it was the Sabbath.

The Pharisees said to Jesus

Why are your disciples harvesting on the Sabbath? That is against the rules!

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

*1 Sam 21:6

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

*Num 28:9

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

*Hos 6:6

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

The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place

There was a man with a crippled hand.

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

Is it right to heal someone on the Sabbath?

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

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

Hold out your hand.

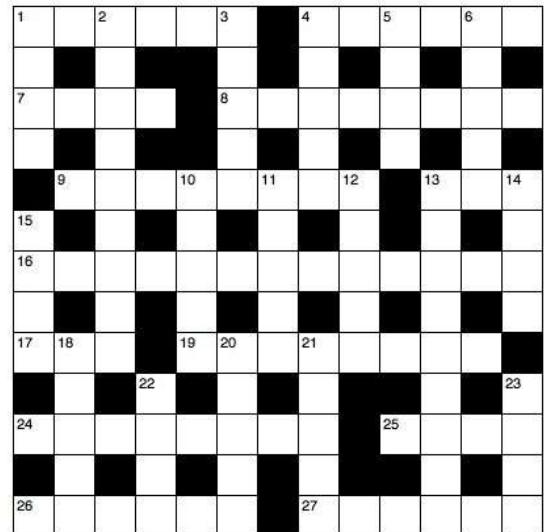
..and it was healed!

The Pharisees left and made plans.

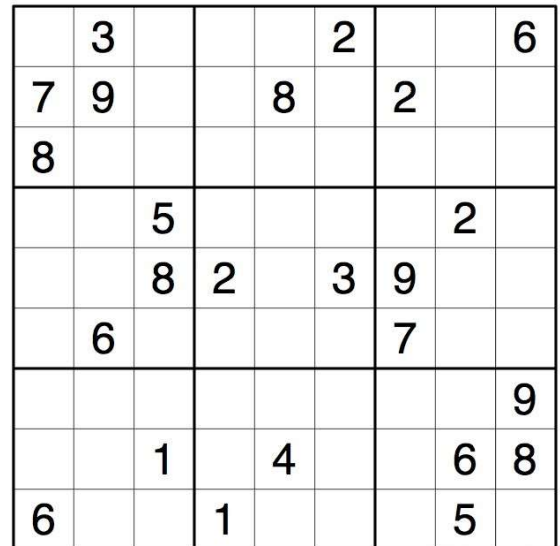
We will kill him.

PUZZLES

Crossword



Sudoku



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

Wordsearch – The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13.24-30)

There is both good & evil in this world? Jesus told a parable about this, The Parable of the Weeds: consider the world as a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. An enemy sowed weeds among the wheat. Both came up. Instead of destroying the weeds & risking the wheat, the Farmer waits & lets both grow until harvest. At harvest they gather the wheat, & discard the weeds. If evil seems to thrive in the world – there is a reckoning to come, and justice to be done.

Kingdom	Sleeping	Master	Let	Sow
Heaven	Grain	Burned	Grow	Barn
Good	Weeds	Gather	Together	
Seed	Enemy	Reap	Harvest	
Field	Servants	Root	Bundles	

Mouse Makes

THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?
— — — — —
John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?
"Go and bear — — — — —"
John 15:16

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?
Thrown into the — — — — — and — — — — —
John 15:6

How many times does Jesus use the word FRUIT?
— — — — —
John 15:1-17

What does Jesus command?
To — — — — —
one another.
John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to LOVE one another?
— — — — —
John 15:6

READ
John 15:1-17

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

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

Sep26 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Crossword Clues Down:

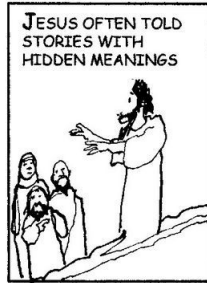
- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you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

Crossword Clues Across:

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



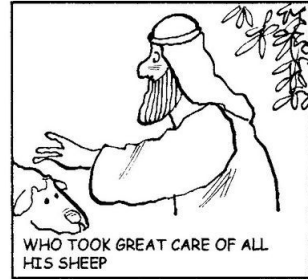
The tale of the Lost Sheep



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



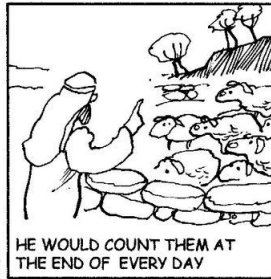
ONE STORY WAS ALL ABOUT A GOOD SHEPHERD.



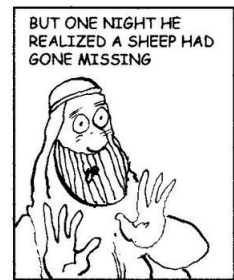
WHO TOOK GREAT CARE OF ALL HIS SHEEP



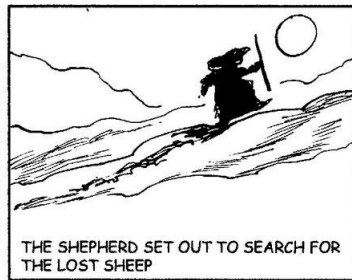
THE SHEPHERD WOULD ALWAYS MAKE SURE EACH SHEEP WAS SAFE.



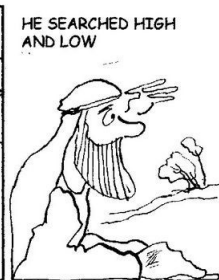
HE WOULD COUNT THEM AT THE END OF EVERY DAY



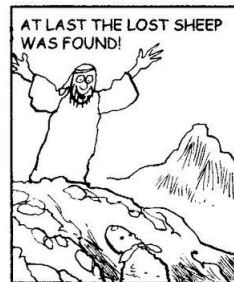
BUT ONE NIGHT HE REALIZED A SHEEP HAD GONE MISSING



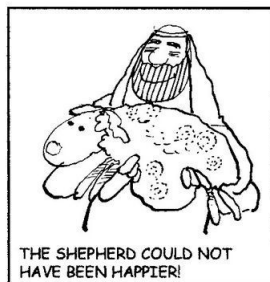
THE SHEPHERD SET OUT TO SEARCH FOR THE LOST SHEEP



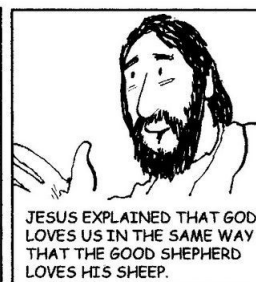
HE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW



AT LAST THE LOST SHEEP WAS FOUND!



THE SHEPHERD COULD NOT HAVE BEEN HAPPIER!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT GOD LOVES US IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE GOOD SHEPHERD LOVES HIS SHEEP.

Puzzle Pages Solutions

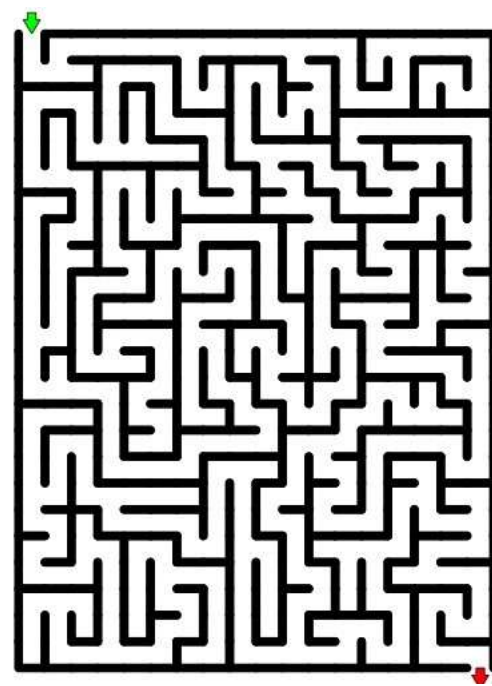
Across: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

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

Sudoku Solution, medium

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

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



Allowed	Disciples	Crippled	Healed	Sabbath	Bread	Harvesting
Break	Pharisees	Sheep	People	David	Kindness	Rules
Picked	Plans	Trick	Hand	Question	Jesus	Worth
Wheat	Priests	Laws				