



St Andrew's Trinity E-News





Winter 25 Issue Email: StAndrews-Trinity@outlook.com Dec (

Dec (Quarterly)

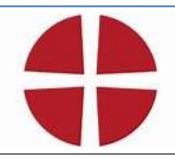




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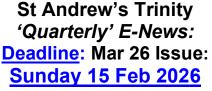
St Andrew's Trinity Church worship at St Andrew's Centre, South Ham, Basingstoke, RG22 6ER

St Andrew's Trinity Website can be reached at:

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

(use control & click)



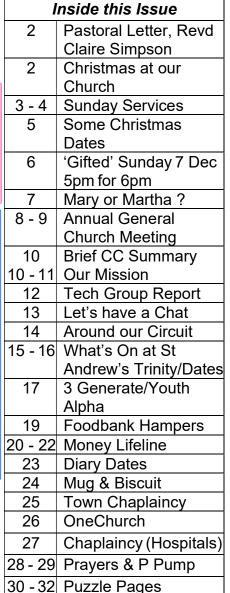


I love receiving your items, do please keep them coming.

Thank you for all your support. Items can be emailed or given to me.

Thank you, Hazel, Ed email below:

hazel@basingstokecircuit.net













Part of Berkshire Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit



www.bhbcircuit.org.uk





December 2025

Dear Friends,

Advent, Christmas and the end of 2025 and beginning of 2026 are upon us – how can this be possible?! And yet it is here and we are called to engage with all that this season and the new year might offer us.

As some of you might know (or have realised), I am a 'words' person. This year the Methodist Church's Advent and Christmas campaign is titled with just one word - 'Gifted.' There are many ways that we can interpret what that word might mean. We might use it to describe someone who has an exceptional talent or skill. At this time of year our thoughts might turn to the giving and receiving of gifts. I suspect most, if not all, of us will buy at least one gift and hopefully we'll receive at least one in return. In the giving and receiving of gifts we might think about the wise men who visit the infant Jesus bringing their gifts. At the centre of the Christmas story is the greatest gift of all -Jesus, God's Son – Emmanuel, come to be 'God with us' here on earth. But there is also another truth in the Christmas story that we are invited to think about this year. God sent his Son, Jesus, into the world because we are a gift, made with love, each one of us so precious to God and called to be a gift to others through the way that we live our lives.

So, as we embark on the Christmas journey this year, we open our hearts to receive the gift of Jesus and when we do may we see ourselves as a gift, made with love and with a purpose to share all the good things of God with others. Just as gifts need to be unwrapped to reveal what they are, may we be willing to be unwrapped of all that keeps us separate and far from God, so that the Christmas truth of life, light and love reaches us once again, or maybe for the very first time. One of my favourite festive poems is 'Christmas' by John Betjeman. I'll close by sharing a bit of that poem with you, words that name some of the kinds of gifts we will give and receive over the Christmas season whilst remembering the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

This most tremendous tale of all, seen in a stained-glass window's hue, a Baby in an ox's stall?

The Maker of the stars and sea become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is, no loving fingers tying strings around those tissued fripperies, the sweet and silly Christmas things, bath salts and inexpensive scent and hideous tie so kindly meant,

no love that in a family dwells, no carolling in frosty air, nor all the steeple-shaking bells can with this single Truth compare – that God was man in Palestine and lives today in Bread and Wine.

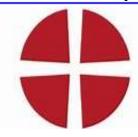
May I take this opportunity to wish you a joyous Christmas and a peace-filled new year.

With love, Claire

Christmas at St Andrew's Trinity:



- Saturday 13 December, 1 pm –
 Christmas Community Lunch, p5
- Thursday 18 December, 2 pm 4 pm, Christmas Medley (an afternoon of Carols, Poems and Readings, p5
- Sunday 21 December, 10.30 am –
 Carol Service, LA, p3
- Wednesday 24 December, 4 pm –
 Christingle Service, led by JAM, p5
 Christingle Service is followed by.....
- Wednesday 24 December, 5 pm –
 A Christmas Communion Service,
 led by Revd Claire Simpson, p5
- Thursday 25 December, <u>10 am</u> Christmas Morning Worship, led by Revd Barbara McIntivey, p3



Our Minister is: Revd Claire Simpson

Sunday Worship at St Andrew's Trinity and *our Basingstoke Churches* – Plan for Worship: Dec 25 to February 2026

Enquiries – Joint Senior Stewards:

Diane Bath ☎: 01256 320429 or email dianebath51@gmail.com Linda Hoe ☎: 01256 417219 or email lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk

This Plan is Sometimes Subject to Change

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

Dates	7 December 2 nd of Advent	14 December 3 rd of Advent	21 December 4 th of Advent		28 December 1 st of Christmas
St Andrew's Trinity	Revd Claire Simpson, HC	Mr Malcolm Stone	Carol Service, LA	Revd Barbara McIntivey –	Mrs Anne Rowe
10.30 am 5 pm for 6pm, See <i>page 11</i> 2.30 pm	'Gifted', 5 pm– Tea, 6 pm Informal Worsh	JAM at 2.30 pm		Please NOTE this Service is at <u>10 am</u>	
Church of L Stream 10.30 am	LA	Mr David Munns	Mrs Rosie Greenhaigh	-	Mrs Helen Watson (LP)
Oakley 1 0.30 am	Mr Chris Marsh	Revd Dr Ruth Midcalf, HC	Revd Barbara McIntivey	-	LA
Oakridge 10.30 am	Mrs Paddy Jose	Revd Jenny Dowding, HC	Mrs Sarah Whithorn	-	Revd Martin Beukes, United Service
Old Basing 10.30 am	LA	Mr Peter Frank	Revd Claire Simpson, HC	-	United at Oakridge

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

Dates	4 January, 2 nd of Christmas	11 January, 1 st Ordinary Time	18 January, 2 nd Ordinary Time	25 January, 3 rd Ordinary Time
St Andrew's		Mrs Linda Hoe,	LA	Mrs Helen Watson
Trinity	McIntivey,	Parade		(LP)
10.30 am	Covenant, HC			
2.30 pm		JAM at 2.30 pm		
Church of	LA	Mr Nick Kingaman	Revd Dr James	Mr Neil Graham
L Stream			Mather	
10.30 am				
Oakley	Revd Claire	Mr Neil Graham	Mrs Sarah Whithorn	Revd Martin Beukes
10.30 am	Simpson, HC			
Oakridge	Revd David Cook	Mrs Rosie	Revd Claire	LA
10.30 am		Greenhaigh	Simpson, HC	
Old Basing	Mr Peter Frank	Mrs Paddy Jose	Revd Barbara	Mrs Paddy Jose
10.30 am		_	McIntivey, HC	

	-			
Dates 1 February, 4 th Ordinary Time		8 February, 5 th Ordinary Time	15 February, Sunday before Lent	22 February, 1st of Lent
St Andrew's Trinity 10.30 am 2.30 pm	Revd Barbara McIntivey, HC	Mr Nick Kingaman JAM at 2.30 pm	Mrs Rosie Greenhaigh	Revd Martin Beukes
Church of L Stream 10.30 am	Revd Claire Simpson, HC	LA	Mrs Anne Rowe	Mrs Sarah Whithorn
Oakley 10.30 am	LA	Revd Jenny Dowding, HC	Mr Peter Frank	LA
Oakridge 10.30 am	Mr David Munns	Revd David Cook	Revd Claire Simpson, HC	LA
Old Basing 10.30 am	LA	Mrs Rosie Greenhaigh	Mrs Sarah Whithorn	Revd Andy Fitchet, HC

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.



Enjoy Fellowship & Refreshments after Morning Worship in the 'Mug & Biscuit'

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).





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

'A Change to our St Andrew's Trinity E-News'

The E-News is now Quarterly with 4 issues a year, in *September – Autumn; December – Winter; March – Spring & June – Summer.* It coincides with the Circuit Plan for Sunday services and is at the same time as the St Andrew's Trinity Quarterly Flyer.

Is there someone out there who would like to take over this job of 'Collating, Editing, E-mailing & Printing the Magazine'? If so, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please come and have a chat with us. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our E-news, Hazel, Ed

The Funeral Service for Mrs Vivianne Edwards

will take place on **Thursday 4 December at 2 pm** at Basingstoke Crematorium.

A Reception will be held at St Andrew's Trinity following the Service.

Please remember Viv's husband Paul and their family in your prayers.



Save the Date



Christmas Community Lunch Saturday 13 December at 1 pm

At St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church

Traditional Christmas Lunch with Vegetarian Option, followed by Christmas Pudding or Cheese and Biscuits and Coffee or Tea with Mince Pies

Entry for Lunch by Ticket: these can be obtained after Church on Sundays and during Mug & Biscuit opening hours.

Closing date for tickets is: Sunday 7 December

Christmas Medley

Thursday 18 December 2 pm – 4 pm



Join Diane and Hazel and friends for an afternoon of Carols, Poems and Readings in a relaxed atmosphere.

Do join us and bring your friends. All Welcome, light refreshments.



- Laugh every day, it's like inner jogging Anon
- Faith is the ability to not panic Anon
- Do the maths ... count your blessings Anon



On Remembrance Sunday,
9 November, a beautiful and
delicious cake was enjoyed by
all after morning worship.
Our grateful thanks to
Frances H

Our Christingle Service is on Wednesday 24
December at 4 pm and led by JAM.

Following our Christingle
Service we have our
'Christmas Communion
Service' at 5 pm, led by
our Minister, Revd Claire
Simpson.

There will be a **short break** between the two services to allow people, not at the Christingle, to join.

An opportunity for

informal worship





You are invited to join us on

Sunday 7th December 2025 At 5pm

in St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church, Basingstoke for

a cream tea in the Mug and Biscuit followed by

At **6pm** Worship in an relaxed atmosphere A chance to... share in conversation, Join together in singing and prayer, Explore faith in a creative way, Discover what you have been given and give thanks.

From social media but appealed to my sense of humour! Steve Smith

Exercise for people over 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level).

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

Mary or Martha?

Mary or Martha? Which example do you follow? Or is it not that simple? At the recent Silchester Retreat Revd Lesley Martin and Revd Angela Webb gave us the opportunity to investigate and meditate on these fundamental teachings in our Christian Faith.

In Luke 10:38-41, Jesus responds to Martha's request that Mary should help her with the housework as Mary is sitting at Jesus's feet listening to what he is saying, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her".

Clearly here the message to us all, then and in today's World, is that listening to or reading God's Word is the priority in our Faith. An increasing knowledge and understanding of God's Word enables us to grow in our Faith, equips us to become more Christlike, and to have the ability to carry out the work that He has for each of us in our lives.

This brings us to Martha's role. She is being obedient to Jesus's second greatest Commandment in Mathew 22:38, "Love your neighbour as yourself". She is rightly doing what she is best equipped to do in hosting Jesus and the disciples in her home and providing for their needs. We also see in the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, Mathew 20:1-16, that Jesus requires that each of us in accordance with our abilities and spiritual gifts are required to do work in our lives on Earth in obedience to His Commandments to love, assist and support our neighbours in need.

Clearly then, both the examples illustrated by Mary and Martha are applicable to each of us. It is for each one of us individually to look deeply at ourselves in prayer and meditation to see where we are today in our Christian Faith and Life. We should seek guidance from the Holy Spirit within us to continually lead us on our Christian journey. We are neither a Mary nor a Martha but a continually evolving combination of both as we grow and become more Christlike in our journey in this life on Earth.

Each one of us should be asking ourselves, "Where am I on my spiritual journey today?"

Martin Frost, November 2025

Autumn Reflections

Capture the beauty of Autumn colours reflected in lake waters at the Vyne. Given to us to freely enjoy and to reflect upon God's Creation!



Together Forever

The two swans are together on the Vyne lake. They are permanent residents who are always together raising their cygnets to adulthood, whatever the weather, sunshine, winter or storm.

Nature's example to us all that Family relationships are the binding Factor in our World today, and that each of us together in our Families with God's love, guidance and support can overcome all the storms of life.

God's Gift, Together Forever.

Martin Frost, November 2025





ANNUAL GENERAL CHURCH MEETING ST ANDREW'S TRINITY SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER 2025 – MINUTES

Present: Revd Claire S, Secretary - Donna L-O, 56 Members (list attached)

Apologies: Hazel H, Peter H, Bob L, Hannah L, Martin F, Julian R,

Christine R, Melvyn R, Bill J

Meeting was preceded by Worship

Welcome The Meeting was held during Sunday Service and began and ended with Worship. After introducing the agenda, Revd Claire thanked the previous Church Secretary, Barbara J for her service and welcomed the new Secretary. Donna L-O who added her personal thanks to Barbara for the hand-over and support she had received. Attendance/Apologies 1. 56 Members signed in at group tables Minutes 2. After an amendment to the minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 20th October 2024 - it was noted that Pauline A had been incorrectly listed as Steward - they were approved. Election of Church Stewards for 2025-26 3. Thanks were given to Peggy W who is standing down and the following people were re-elected - Peter A, Linda H, Diane B, Katrina C, Bob L, Edna R, Jenny L Revd Claire asked that they be remembered in our prayers. Election of Congregational Representatives on Church Council 4. Thanks were given to Eileen B who is standing down. Members were asked to keep Viv E in their thoughts The following people were re-elected – Pauline A, Teresa S, Michael P, David G, Martin F, Llyn F, Sue D, Hannah L, Joyce S, Peter H. Barbara J was elected as a new Congregational Representative. Financial Report 5.

Sarah W's Treasurer's report had been circulated in advance to all Church Council

members and to those on the Newsletter distribution list.

There were no questions or queries.

6. Property and AV update

Both reports had been circulated in advance to all Church Council members and to those on the Newsletter distribution list.

Bob was thanked for his property report and work throughout the year. Prayers continue to be with him and Hannah, whilst he recovers from surgery.

Revd Claire thanked David W for his AV report and highlighted the work completed during the last year. She brought attention to item 3 in the report that members might like to consider during the listening exercise. A brief summary:

- a) Whether there should be individual tablets available for those who have difficulty seeing the screen?
- b) What might be shown on the screen, in terms of other visual items, and does the screen need to be larger?
- c) Whether Zoom should be offered to those who cannot come to the building?

7. Listening to one another within our church community

Revd Claire reminded everyone that it was two years since her arrival and the formation of the new Church Community. She expressed her thanks to everyone for their work, support, encouragement and enthusiasm in church life.

There was a reminder of the resources 'Our Church's Future Story', introduced at last year's Annual Church Meeting. Some of these resources were being used by the recently formed Mission group (an open group that anyone can join) and for this session.

Revd Claire explained that the group discussion would add to the 'listening to one another' that had been happening over the last two years and noted that feedback on Worship had already been received by Ann W and Linda H at a recent LA service.

For the local community and those who use the building, a questionnaire was being prepared.

The sheets for feedback were introduced – 'Listening within our church community' questions and 'Wants and Wishes' grid.

After each of the two listening and discussion sessions some feedback was shared.

(Please see copies of the feedback on the noticeboard at the back of the church)

Comment: There will be reflection on the feedback and suggested ways forward by the Mission group, at the next meeting on 17th Nov. A summary of findings and next steps will be published in the Winter edition of the e-news

8. Any Other Business

Communication for quarterly newsletter and bi-monthly notice sheet – Hazel H asked that people let her know if they need to publicise any activities in either of these publications.

Worship and Blessing followed the me	or/	ship	and	В	essing	fol	lowed	the	meet	ing
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Signed	Date	
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3rd November 2025 Church Council Meeting Summary A copy of the Full Minutes can be found on the Church noticeboard

Sixteen Members of the Church Council attended the meeting. They received reports from Church groups and Circuit, and discussed a number of different topics, including Safeguarding, GDPR (safeguarding of data), Finance, Lettings and the Mission of St Andrew's Trinity.

Church Council formally approved the Reserves Policy and Annual Accounts and adopted the Safeguarding Policy. These are all reviewed annually.

Members also discussed two requests for financial donations. They agreed to make a one-off donation to One Church for the Basingstoke Chaplaincy and to the Samuel Fund in Zambia, an organisation supported by Church of the Living Stream.

The next St Andrew's Trinity Church Council meeting will be on 16th February 2026.

Our Mission - Our Church's Future Story

It is over two years ago now that we came together to form St Andrew's Trinity, a new church community. Our coming together was for a renewed sense of purpose and to bring



together all our resources - people, time, money and talents - to use them for mission and outreach into South Ham and this area of Basingstoke so that more people will know and experience something of God's love and care for them. To help us explore how we might do this we are using a Methodist Church resource called 'Our Church's Future Story'. As part of this process, we are currently engaging in 'listening'. Listening to one another within our church community and listening to others in the wider community.

Over the last few months we have listened to one another on Sundays in the context of our morning worship. We have heard from some of the groups in our church life and we have shared ideas about our experience of worship. On Sunday 26^{th} October at our Annual Church Meeting we listened to one another as we shared in conversation around some questions which encouraged us to think about what we value about church life and what we might want to see grow and develop in the future. I want to thank everyone who attended and took part in the table discussions. It was a good atmosphere that enabled people to share openly and honestly, and responses were recorded as part of that meeting. The Mission Group met in mid-November to 'chew over' the responses and pull out some recurring themes. Overall, the feedback was positive, encouraging and constructive. Some broad themes emerged:

• People value welcome, inclusion, feeling at home and belonging to a community that is friendly and loving.

Cont'd..... Our Mission - Our Church's Future Story

- People value the ways in which we can meet and gather to be with one another - Sunday by Sunday; in smaller groups in church life; in the Mug and Biscuit.
- People placed importance on **music** in our worship **singing** and the appreciation of **musicians** to lead us in this.

Other specific things that were mentioned about worship (including communion) will be considered by the Worship Group. Things that pertained to our use of technology and audio-visual matters will be considered by the tech group. People also identified a variety of things that we not only value but might try and develop as we respond to the needs of the community around us:

- The Mug and Biscuit was mentioned on numerous occasions as a very valued form of outreach. How might we build on this?
- Our work with children, young people and families is greatly valued and we want to build on this to attract more people in our community.
- We recognise the value of **meeting in small groups** for social and devotional purposes. Small groups enable the **building of stronger** relationships and allow trust to develop.

Taking all the feedback together it is obvious that as a large community we have a wide breadth of thought and opinion on a variety of different issues. Rather than a difficulty, this feels like a strength! There is room for all of us and in all aspects of our church life over time we strive to meet the wants and needs of as many people as possible. We remember that when something is said and done that isn't to **our** taste, it is hopefully meeting the needs of someone else and blessing them on that occasion. As we continue to listen to one another and continue our mission process in 2026 we pray our relationships will continue to deepen and grow. In the new year we will begin the second part of our listening exercise, where we seek to reach other groups who use our premises - those connected with the church and those who are not - and others in our wider community who come onto our premises or use other facilities in our vicinity.

The Mission Group is an open group and our next meeting is on Monday 26th January at 10.30am in the Mug and Biscuit. You are very welcome to attend!

Revd Claire Simpson (on behalf of the Mission Group)

- If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry *Anon*
- Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted *Anon*
- There is no key to happiness. The door is always open *Anon*



Tech Group Report



You may be wondering who or what the Tech group is. It was formed out of the Audio Visual (AV) working party; the thought being that there were issues that the church could consider beyond AV ones. It is a loose group of people who would like to improve the way in which we use technology to enhance our worship, fellowship and mission. It is not a group of "techies", though it includes people who understand all sorts of technology. (There are still others who would not regard themselves as part of the group, but who I call on if needed).

The Tech group needs you! I am interested in people who can say WHAT is needed – they do not need to say HOW to implement it.

On AV matters you will be aware of the changes to the screen, the cross and speakers. There is some cable tidying and documentation still required, but other than that, the original plan is completed.

In addition to Audio Visual things, I would like to remind people that our church has a website (go to https://e-voice.org.uk/standrewstrinitymc/), or just search for "St Andrews Trinity Basingstoke". It has dates of things happening, links to newsletters and other news. Peter Harris is the webmaster; do contact him if you have something to share on the website. The website depends on everybody keeping Peter up to date with what is happening. Thank you to those who already do this.

We also have an email address (<u>standrews-trinity@outlook.com</u>). The computer in the church office will pick up emails and you can then print or edit documents. We do not have a copy of Microsoft Office but we do have a very good lookalike (LibreOffice) that does everything that most people would use MS Office for.

We have a wish list, which I have shared with everybody previously, but it was interesting to compare this with the comments made by people in the recent LA service on worship and the Annual Church Meeting. Church Council looked at the comments following the ACM, and this helped refine the wish list.

So, this is what I have. Please do tell me your views!

- 1. A trolley mounted monitor that can be used for small groups
- 2. Issues with microphones (most likely a user issue, rather than a technical one)
- 3. Tablets that can "mirror" what is on the screen for those who have difficulty with the screen
- 4. A larger screen, probably with TV proportions which are slightly different to the present screen
- 5. Using the apse at the front of the main hall creatively, maybe sharing something of God or the Christian year.
- 6. Examining whether we can sensitively cut down on the sunlight through the Methodist Cross that bothers some people on bright winter mornings
- 7. Broadcasting to the Mug and Biscuit and other rooms
- 8. Reviewing our wifi offering
- 9. Broadcasting services and possibly other events on Zoom to people who cannot be with us.

You will not be surprised to hear that there is some background thinking behind why these are on the wish list, but I do not want to go through that in this article. I would very much like to share this or anything else with you in person whenever you want.

Thank you, **David Webb**

Let's have a Chat

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year. The familiar greeting goes round the bus. What are you doing for Christmas? Are you going away? Oh hope you enjoy it. Bye. It is a reason, and excuse to chatter, and the sound of voices, is life. From the elderly, the children, the mothers, and we are all caught up in the flow of conversation, whether we want to be or not.



The Art of Conversation is so easy for some, while for others it can be difficult. It improves with practice. Years ago, I had two little boys. Walking into town could take quite a long time, especially if I met anyone I knew. The boys dreaded it, because they said, 'Mum, you chat to them'. In 1979 Cliff Richard sang, 'It's funny that we don't talk anymore.' It was a pop song, which many realized was true. It was top of the charts for many weeks

The British are famous, for talking about the weather It is easy to see why. Our climate is just so varied, and it is certainly an ice breaker., so to speak. That is why 'Merry Christmas' is a good start line. Conversation is much more than words. It's a gesture, a contact, an invitation to share our humanity. People are so interesting, and the more we do it, the easier it becomes. There has to be a point of listening too, and the exchange of thoughts, ideas and emotions keep our brains active, alert, so we are fulfilled in life, and boredom does not have a foothold.

Thomas Hardy, the Wessex poet, realized after the death of his first wife Emma, that lack of speech had caused a chasm to open between them. He asks in his poem 'The Going' Why latterly did we not speak?' Too late, his grief was compounded by silence. The opportunity to share had passed.

Years ago the chat over the garden fence was common place, now it is superseded by the emails, and electronic messaging that is fast, but lacks feeling, and the special relational contact speech has. In speech the rise and fall of the words, the accent, the facial expression, are all there, the email is not quite the same, is it? Watch deaf people conversing with their hands. Their faces light up, they have contact. They smile, displaying their emotions, their meeting changes the quiet world in which they live, and all is alive and vibrant.

In prayer, however haltingly we speak to God, our innermost thoughts are expressed. The Psalmist does this over and over again. In Psalm 116 he bares his soul. He brings all those human feelings he has to God, and he says; 'I love the Lord, he has heard my voice. because he turned his ear to me.' We know when people are listening, we know when they are distracted, but God listens, he cares and loves us, with an everlasting love,

So this Christmas, let us chatter the Christmas story. Let us put Christ back into Christmas. God bless you.

Margaret Garland

3rd Basingstoke Boys' Brigade -

Are there any boys with nothing to do on a Friday night? We run 2 sessions: 5-8 yr olds, 6.30 pm – 7.45 pm (£2 per boy) and 8-18 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)

Around our Circuit – What's on & Where?

(Most are from our Weekly Circuit Notices) – Circuit Web address: www.bhbcircuit.org.uk



ACTION FOR CHILDREN

(Registered charity nos. 1097940/SC038092)

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER

10 TILL 12 NOON

at

SILCHESTER METHODIST CHURCH HALL

(opposite Soke Road)

STALL WITH HOME PRODUCE, CHRISTMAS CARDS & GIFTS





Memory Worship

at

Oakridge Methodist Church
Vivian Road. Basingstoke. RG21 5QB

Tuesday 9 Dec, 2.30 pm is the Final Memory Worship this year

Memory Worship is held on the second Tuesday afternoon of each month starting at 2.30pm The dates for January – April 2026 are:

> January 13th February 10th March 10th April 14th

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.



Old Basing Methodist Church CAMEO Club meet next on:

Tuesdays: 16 Dec; 20 Jan & 17 Feb from 11.30 am – 1 pm



Light lunch provided. Please bring crafts of your choice. All Welcome.

Gillian Smethurst

Oakley Methodist Church



Coffee Mornings on:

Tuesdays: 9 Dec; 13 & 27 Jan & 10 & 24 Feb 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

Vivian Road, B/Stoke, RG21 5QB 'Welcome Hub' – Coffee & Craft – Wednesdays 10 am – 12 noon

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



Berkshire & Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit

LOOK OUT: for the
Weekly Circuit Notices – these
give information about what's
going on in our Circuit and also
Ongoing Weekly / Monthly
Services, Meetings etc

 A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.

'TUESDAY COFFEE CLUB'

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

The Fountain Prayer Group

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

on: Thursdays: 11 Dec; 8 & 22 Jan and 12 & 26 Feb



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

Angela Webb (angela@webbfamily.org.uk)

'The 'Singing Group'

Will Next Meet on:



Monday 8 December at 11 am at Church. All Very Welcome.

Dates for: Jan, Feb & Mar to be confirmed.

More information from Peggy.

Trinity Circle Meets at St Andrew's Trinity, 7.30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday monthly:

BUT We Do NOT Meet in January and February.

Our December Meeting is on Tuesday 9 December and this will be a Christmas Celebration.

Sonia

Northern Housegroup Meets at Members' homes on the 1st Tuesday evening each month. Sonia, Hilary and Edna

(JAM) - 'Jesus And Me' Meet:

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



The Next 'JAM' Dates are:

Sundays: 14 Dec; 11 Jan; 8 Feb and 8 March

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

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

South Ham Churches Lunch Club

St Andrew's, St Josephs & St Peters 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**.

Some Future Meetings at St Andrew's Trinity for 2026:

Monday 19 January, 2 pm -Monday 2 February, 2 pm -

Monday 16 February, 2 pm -

Pastoral Meeting

Monday 26 January, 10.30 am - Open Mission Meeting in the 'Mug & Biscuit' Worship Meeting **Church Council**

Friday 6 March, 2 pm -(A Service for Everyone)

World Day of Prayer at St Andrew's Trinity, The Theme for this year is 'Nigeria 2026'

Useful A 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 – 2: 01256 417219 /

email: lindahoe@hotmail.co.uk

St Andrew's Trinity Bookings: Contact: Bob

Lock, email: robertlock1@virgnmedia.com

St Andrew's Trinity Quarterly E-News, Editor: Hazel Harris, email: hazel@basingstokecircuit.net

Other Useful **2** & Email Contacts:

NEW Personal Assistant to the Charity Officers: Pat Dyer, will be based in the Circuit Office, Reading, working primarily with Revd Martin Beukes, Circuit Superintendent, to expand on the work Marion Young was doing.

Circuit Office email: office@bhbcircuit.org.uk

2: 0118 958 1505

Circuit Administrator: Lee Frost, can be contacted: **2** 07586 441328 & by email at: lee.f@bhbcircuit.org.uk

Children's, Families & Young Person's Outreach Worker, B/Stoke, Yvonne Hunt can

be contacted: 2: 07462 040644 or by email: yvonne.h@bhbcircuit.org.uk

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

A List of - Church Stewards & Congregational Representatives on Church Council can be found on the Notice Board at the back of the Church. Also a copy of the Current Minutes.

Yvonne Hunt –

Is our Children's, Families & Young Persons Outreach Worker for our **B/Stoke Methodist Churches**, contact: 2 07462 040644 or email: yvonne.h@bhbcircuit.org.uk

Louise Craig -

Is our **B/Stoke Assistant Outreach** Worker, contact: 2 07935 077713 or email: louise.c@bhbcircuit.org.uk

All Parish Pump Items:

Are used with their permission,

(both written & graphics), Hazel, Ed

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.

3 Generate and Youth Alpha

A Big thank you to all the people and churches that supported 3 Generate. We took 40 young people form the Reading and Basingstoke areas of the Circuit.

The young people enjoyed the event, playing a range of sports, like climbing and doge ball, to crafting, song writing, playing games and meeting lots of young people from across the Connectional, and worshiping altogether.

There is a video which has been sent to all the churches with some photos of the event and the worship song that was specifically written for 3 Generate.

From the event, our young people asked for more – they would like more bible study and conversation, so from the feedback we are going to be running a **Youth Alpha starting on Sunday afternoon 18**th **January 2026**, and running till Easter, for all young people in School years 9,10,11 and College.

As part of the **Youth Alpha**, there will be a weekend on **14**th **to 15**th **February at Christ Church Woodley**, so if any young person is interested, please contact your **Church Minister or Yvonne Hunt or Rae Douglas**.

Christmas Tree Festival

To help celebrate the start of Advent and Christmas we have asked the local groups at St Andrew's Trinity to decorate a tree to represent their group, we will then be opening up the Church on Sunday 30th November in the afternoon for refreshment.

Christingle Service

There will be a Christingle service at St Andrew's Trinity on **Christmas Eve afternoon at 4 pm**. We hope people will join us for this lovely intergenerational service.

Mug and Biscuit Plus

On the *Thursday of February Half-term (19th February)* the Mug and Biscuit will be open as normal with board games and craft activities for all the family in the main area, there will also be a family film in the afternoon,

Yvonne Hunt

Children, Families and Young Persons Outreach Worker for Basingstoke Methodist Churches. *Phone:* 07462 040644

www.bhbcircuit.org.uk

'All are welcome'

The Methodist Church has released a new recording of the hymn 'Let us build a house where love can dwell', known to many as 'All Are Welcome'. More than 140 Methodist churches contributed their voices to the project.

The hymn is intended as a response to the recent protests in London, the disorder outside the accommodation of those seeking asylum and the *'Raise the Colours'* campaign.

Ben Lawrence, Digital Content Producer at the Methodist Church commented, "Many people have been made to feel, not just unwelcome, but frightened and intimidated by what is happening. We want this to be a song of reassurance, friendship and understanding."

(Parish Pump)



ligeria 2026

Advance Notice

The World Day of Prayer Service for 2026 is being held in OUR CHURCH - St Andrews Trinity.

Time 2pm ALL WELCOME



AGE Concern Hampshire recently launched its Christmas Campaign. They are raising awareness of the pressures elderly people face during the winter months, concerning isolation, falls and loneliness.

Through their 'Information Service' this charity provides guidance with form-filling, including assistance with benefit applications that can help with heating and fuel costs. Through their 'Care and Wellbeing Centres and Footcare Clinics' they help older people maintain mobility, manage foot health, and reduce the risks of accidents, all of which contribute to independence and confidence in their own homes.

BVA (BStoke Voluntary Action) has just launched an on-line directory to help Basingstoke & Dene Residents find local community services, and support. You can find this directory by logging in to: www.bvaaction.org.uk

Many thanks to Barbara Johnson for sending in this information.

St Andrew's Trinity Website/Flyers:

https://e-voice.org.uk/standrewstrinitymc/
(control & click)

We would very grateful if everyone could keep Hazel and myself informed of what's going on, any dates etc, so we can include them on the website, in the Quarterly E-News Magazine and in the Quarterly Flyer. I would also welcome any suggestions for changes / additions you would like to see on the website, *Peter Harris*

Quarterly Flyer (4 sides, A5 size) – the latest one is out now and covers December, January & February. Copies should be available in the Mug & Biscuit or the Spinner in the entrance area – a 'good way' of telling people (old and new) what is going on at our Church. Why not take a copy to pass on to someone new.

When the *Quarterly Flyers* run out, there will be a *Mini Flyer (just 2 sides A5 size)* available to give out to people, with information about all the groups that take place at our church. These will be in the spinner. The *Next Quarterly Flyer comes* out the beginning of March 2026, *Hazel H, Ed*

Mid Wales church offers unique autumn stay for walkers

Walkers looking for a new way to explore the Welsh countryside this autumn can now book overnight stays at St Gwrhai's Church in Penstrowed, Powys — one of only two "champing" sites in Wales. Champing, a blend of 'church' and 'camping', offers exclusive overnight access to historic churches no longer used for regular services. St Gwrhai's, built in the 1860s on a site with Christian heritage dating back to the 6th century, sits beside the River Severn and provides access to walking routes across Mid Wales.

The church accommodates up to four guests and includes a fully equipped kitchen in the adjacent hall, an indoor toilet, and secure space for bikes. Dogs are welcome. Most guests stay for one or two nights, with solo travellers, small groups, and families all booking during the first season. Located an hour from both Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, the site is well placed for exploring the Cambrian Mountains, which lie 20 minutes away and include nine Dark Sky Discovery sites. The Severn Way — a 215-mile walking route to Bristol — begins nearby, and guided walking groups operate in the area. Run by Bro Arwystli Ministry Area, Guests have exclusive use of the church during their stay. More info: champing.co.uk.

Basingstoke Foodbank Christmas Hamper Project



Our Christmas Hamper Project works to provide a Hamper of essential food items along with some Christmas treats to individuals and families in Basingstoke.

Working with over 160 partnering agencies, we receive hamper referrals from across the whole community. Each year it is a joy to see the community coming together to support those who might otherwise go without and over the years we have loved having so many individuals, companies, churches and other groups involved in the **Basingstoke Christmas Hamper Project**. Throughout December volunteers wrap, pack and deliver hampers across Basingstoke and the surrounding areas.

Over the last few years Festival Place have kindly provided a unit which we turn into our Hamper Hub for December. This year we will have a new home for our Hamper Hub, to be revealed! Volunteers join us from the community and local businesses to spend a morning or afternoon at the Hub putting the Hampers together. Once packed, Hampers are delivered by volunteers and Churches in time for Christmas.

How to get involved: Donate Hamper items or organise a Christmas collection:

If you are holding a collection, do make use of our <u>Christmas Hamper Project Poster 2025</u> and '<u>Christmas Shopping Lists 2025</u>' to share with your group the items we need. We usually receive more of some items than others. If you are unsure what you would like to donate, contact us at <u>admin@basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk</u> and we can let you know if there is anything we are particularly short of! Once you are ready, drop off your donations at our warehouse (address below), or any of our usual supermarket and community <u>drop off locations</u>.

Christmas Hamper Items

- Tea, Coffee or Hot Chocolate
- ▲ Tinned Meat / Fish
- Tinned Fruit
- Custard (sachets preferred)
- Sharing bags of Savoury Snacks
- Tried Stuffing Mix

Christmas Hamper Items

- ** Biscuits
- 🤚 Christmas Cake or Yule Log
- Christmas Pudding
- Mince Pies
- Pickle or Jam
- Sharing Box or Tub of Chocolates

Volunteer:

If you wish to volunteer at our Hamper Unit, there are different roles available, from wrapping, to packing, organising and delivering, there is something for everyone! We will be open Monday to Saturday throughout December, with two daily shifts, 10am-1pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm.

This year we will be in a NEW location! We are very excited to be offered a space at **Kingsland Business Park, Wade Road, Basingstoke RG24 8QL.** Parking is available onsite. Due to the popularity of this project, volunteers will be able to sign up for one shift only. Please sign up to volunteer here

Once we have received your response, we will send an email confirmation with your session details.

- 80 years ago, on 16 November 1945 UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, was founded.
- 50 years ago, on 3 November 1975 Britain's first North Sea oil pipeline was officially opened.

Published by St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church

Money Lifeline: 2025 - what a turnround!

Welcome to news from Money Lifeline – Basingstoke's debt advice charity supported by local churches. As the headline suggests, 2025 has been a year of change – with plans made and then upended as God continued to work.

As you may recall, at the beginning of the year we were anticipating having to close the service: the majority of our volunteers were planning to step back for a variety of reasons, meaning that we would not have enough people to continue beyond this month. Although we had been telling local churches about this, we had received a very limited response.

However in the summer our good friends at the Foodbank were able to help with additional publicity and we have now recruited 5 volunteers who are well advanced in their training to become debt advisers. Together with changes to other volunteers' circumstances this means that we can continue our much needed and highly valued work without interruption.

Praise God for his provision and our thanks to all those who have volunteered, supported and prayed for us over this period – it is much appreciated.

A reminder of what do we do:

It's now 18 years since Money Lifeline began supporting local people in debt. We help people who have debts they cannot cope with on their own, by providing a free, face to face, confidential debt advice service to anyone who needs it. We aim to give clients the time and love required to really understand them and their problems and to help them with the impact on their personal lives, as well as the hard figures. Since we began, we have worked with hundreds of individuals and couples by helping them find a way through the deep distress and misery that money worries bring.

How do we do this? We help people understand their finances, draw up an affordable budget, assist in claiming the right benefits, negotiate with creditors and bailiffs, accompany clients to court hearings and, as appropriate, agree affordable repayment plans or other debt solutions such as debt relief orders or bankruptcy. The aim is to take the stress away, enable people to reclaim control of their lives, to get out (and stay out) of debt.

What do our clients say about us? Here's some feedback we've received

Money Lifeline have changed my life, they're supportive, compassionate, caring and understanding. Amazing team Keep doing what you're doing you change peoples

Cont'd...

life's and you truly do care for what your doing. You all go above and beyond what I expected. Thank you

The advisers are remarkable, listen with compassion and help there is no judgement Thank you for all you've done x

They made me feel at ease as soon as I met them. I have mental issues and they took all of it into consideration perfectly. I would recommend them to anyone in the need for financial help. Thank you very much

The support and encouragement I received has been invaluable.

They helped me from the first phone call. They understood the stress and pressure I was under. They took the time to listen to how I was feeling and what I was going through. They never once judged me. They worked around my work. If it wasn't for them I'm not sure where I would be today.

Money Lifeline is affiliated to Community Money Advice (a national charity) and we are registered with the Charity Commission and the Information Commissioner. Most importantly we are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Who do we help?

There is no typical client: everyone is different but all are hurting and anxious. But over the last few years we've seen that generally people's debts are greater, more complex and more urgent. We tend to attract clients who need more intensive, long term support that cannot be managed in a fixed number of meetings: we're always happy to go the extra mile. To bring things into a little more focus, let me tell you about a client we have dealt with recently (names and details have been changed):

A family member contacted us about Sybil: she's a young, single mother with some mental health issues and was worried about debts that had built up, totalling around £9,000. She owed money to British Gas and she had failed to pay her Council Tax as she believed that she was not liable – although she had received letters about this, she didn't really understand them and had tried to ignore them. She was also being chased aggressively by a loan company: they wanted her to pay for a loan taken out by a friend at an interest rate of 117%!! – Sybil thought she might have agreed to be a guarantor, but the company claimed that she took the loan. As you can imagine, this was all very distressing for her.

Sybil has been making real efforts to sort things out including getting part time work but needed a way to get past her current problems which were affecting her mental well being..

We took over dealing with the creditors which gave her some immediate relief. And we've just arranged a Debt Relief Order for her: this writes her debts off and gives her a fresh start. We're confident that Sybil will take advantage of

Cont'd...

this and will continue to work with us as we help her learn how to manage her money and stay out of debt.

I hope this story illustrates what we are trying to do – to help people as individuals, and understand their whole needs. The vast majority of our clients are deeply concerned at their plight and want to be free of their debt. And in most cases, we are able to provide real and immediate assistance in reducing the stress and anxiety – and find a way to move forward. We know our service is frequently seen as a real lifeline.

Looking forward, we know that personal debt is rising: there are continuing squeezes on benefits and earnings together with rising inflation mean that problems will continue.

We hope that this short newsletter has given you an idea of the type of work we do: thank you for your interest and support.

And Finally

We'd like to thank Basingstoke Community Churches for continuing to let us have office space for admin and to meet clients at The Sarum Hill Centre – their support is much appreciated.

Although we are really pleased to welcome our new volunteers, we would still welcome extra team members - please get in touch if you're interested.

We're supported entirely by donations, so if you or your church were able to provide financial support that would be greatly appreciated. We also welcome your continuing prayer for our work.

And if you or someone you know needs help, don't hesitate to give them our details or, if they give permission, let us know about them and we will make contact.

Finally if you'd like us to come and talk to your church or group, we'd be very happy to do so.

Our contact details are:

- Tel or text to 07954 040961 or 07598 579741
- E mail to moneylifelinebasingstoke@gmail.com
- Website <u>www.moneylifeline.org</u>

David Evans For Money Lifeline

November 2025

Diary Page, St Andrew's Trinity – CHECK OUT the Church Noticeboards!							
Dates	Timings	EVENTS at St Andrew's Trinity unless advised					
Weekly & Mont	hly Events – TT	(term-time)					
Tue, Wed, Thur weekly TT only	•	Mug & Biscuit is Open for drinks, biscuits, cakes, tea-cakes, light lunches, <i>p24</i>					
Tues, weekly	10am-11.30am	Tuesday Coffee Club, p15					
Wed weekly TT	1pm-3pm	Knit One, Drop One					
2 nd /4 th Frid mnth	12.30pm	S/Ham Churches Lunch Club, St Joseph's Church, p15					
2 nd & 4 th Thurs monthly	2.30pm-4pm	The Fountain Prayer Group twice monthly unless otherwise advised, <i>p15</i>					
4 th Tues evening	6.30pm	Harrow Way Housegroup					
Youth Organisa	ations – Weekly,	Mostly Term-time – abbreviated to TT in places					
Mon, weekly, term-time (TT)	7pm-8.30pm	1 st South Ham Guides, (age 10–14), Leader: Sarah, New Members Sign Up via Girl Guides' website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus					
Wed, weekly TT	4.30pm-5.45pm	3 rd South Ham Rainbows, (age 4–7), Lena Ponting					
Wed, weekly TT	6pm-7.30pm	3 rd South Ham Brownies, (age 7–10), Lena Ponting					
Thur, weekly TT	10am–11am	Playtime U5 Group, Contact: Theresa Strachan					
Frid, weekly	6.30pm-10pm	3 rd B/Stoke Boys Brigade, Captain Theresa Strachan <i>p14</i>					
Other Events (i	ncluding events	that are once a month)					
December & Fu	ture Dates	At St Andrew's Trinity					
Sund 7 Dec	5pm for 6pm	'Gifted' (Cream Tea followed by Informal Worship), p6					
Mond 8 Dec	11am	Singing Group (Future dates to be confirmed), p15					
Tues 2 Dec	7.30pm	Northern Housegroup meets (Also 5 Jan & 2 Feb), p15					
Tues 9 Dec	7.30pm	Trinity Circle Meets (NO meetings in Jan & Feb), p15					
Thur 11 Dec	2.30pm	Fountain Prayer Group (8 / 22 Jan & 12 / 26 Feb), p15					
Sat 13 Dec	1 pm	Christmas Community Lunch, <i>p5</i>					
Sund 14 Dec	2.30pm	JAM meet (Also 11 Jan & 8 Feb), p15					
Thur 18 Dec	2 pm – 4 pm	Christmas Medley, <i>p5</i>					
Wed 24 Dec	4 pm	Christingle Service, <i>p5</i>					
Wed 24 Dec	5 pm	Christmas Communion Service, <i>p5</i>					
Mond 19 Jan	2pm	Pastoral Meeting, p16					
Mond 26 Jan	10.30am	OPEN Mission Meet, 'Mug & Biscuit' All Welcome, p16					
Mond 2 Feb	2pm	Worship Meeting, <i>p16</i>					
Sund 15 Feb		DEADLINE for March 2026 E-News					
Mond 16 Feb	2pm	Church Council Meeting, p16					
Thur 19 Feb	10am – 4pm	Half-term fun, games & craft 'am' and a film 'pm', p17					
Frid 6 March	2pm	World Day of Prayer at St Andrew's Trinity, p18					
Dec onwards		nurch Events – See page 14					
Tues 9 Dec	2.30pm	Memory Worship, Oakridge (2 nd Tues afternoon), p14					
Tues 9 Dec	10.30am	Coffee morning, Oakley (13 / 27 Jan & 10 / 24 Feb), p14					
Tues 16 Dec	11.30am	Cameo at Old Basing (20 Jan & 17 Feb), p14					

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



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



- We serve: home-made cakes, jacket potatoes, toasted sandwiches & tea cakes.
- Menu is subject to change. Last Orders for hot food 1 pm.
- Takeaway Available. Credit Cards Accepted.
- The Mug & Biscuit is <u>NOT OPEN</u> <u>During School Holidays</u>

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

We look forward to welcoming old & new friends.





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

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

THANKS, **Bob**

Image, Pete's photo

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

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

oil milk bottle tops too Thank you, Helen



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



Christian Resources Available:

Steve Wood, supplies Christian Resources to surrounding areas via 'Sonrise Christian Resources'. Contact Steve 2: 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

With New Year's Resolutions in mind, here is John Wesley's rule of conduct:

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can In all the ways you can, in all the places you can At all the times you can, to all the people you can As long as ever you can.

Children's Society to exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show (PP)

Children's Society is to have a show garden at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Chelsea Flower show next year, 19 - 23 May 2026.

Designed to spotlight the urgent issue of teenage wellbeing in the UK, 'The Children's Society Garden' has been created by landscape architect Patrick Clarke. It draws inspiration from the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi - celebrating the beauty in imperfection.

This nurturing space will offer a message of hope, safety, and connection for young people facing challenges today.

Basingstoke Town Centre Chaplaincy Prayer Letter, October 2025 God is our help and strength, a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46 v1)

Bold words borne out of experience! I am sure many of us can testify to their truth when we have struggled or been troubled, although maybe we have only realised so when looking back sometime later.

Chaplains from courts in Basingstoke, Winchester and Salisbury got together recently to share experiences. We are available to listen and talk with people – the accused, witnesses, victims and family and friends. Some people are angry with God but God does not keep troubles from us, rather He helps us through them. Through a chaplain, God offers help and strength to those angry, hurt, ashamed, troubled or bewildered. Court staff also face challenges each day, organising and hearing the cases, and we are able to support them too. It is particularly challenging in the crown courts where cases last several days or weeks with unpleasant events described in detail. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide chaplains as to who to speak to and what to say. In Basingstoke it would be good to appoint one more chaplain to provide a fuller presence there.

The bowling alley is about to open in Festival Place and other activity centres, shops and restaurants are opening, including a post office! We do not want to cut back on what we are doing but would like to respond to new opportunities for godly engagement and the promotion of peace and wellbeing.

As a part of God's mission we want to stay connected to local churches where people we meet can find out more about faith in Jesus Christ. We also need support from them, especially prayer and promoting the value of engaging with people in the community who otherwise would not be in contact with Christians or the gospel. The Chaplaincy is also part of the church's calling to seek the welfare and peace of the community in which we live. We participated in the interfaith walk in September to show that we share much with others, and that our differences do not lead to hostility but peaceful interactions.

Please share our news with others and invite them to receive our regular prayer news. We also welcome regular donations to keep operating and we will be providing Christmas cards and a token gift to workers in the town again this year. Donations can be made to Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy Trust, CAF Bank, Sort Code 40-52-40, Account number 00036785. If you wish to Gift Aid your donations a form can be sent to you on request.

Thank you for your support. Many Code blooms and we will be providing Christmas cards and a token gift to workers in the town again this year. Donations can be made to Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy

Thank you for your support. May God bless you and guide you.

John Chair of Trustees

Prayer requests Please pray for:

- Tim, Pam, Graham and Eric who each spend one morning a week in the magistrates courts.
- Creating a network of court chaplains who can support each other and develop good practices.
- Kathie bringing a Christian perspective to several chat groups in the Discovery Centre.
- Our engagement with people working in the town centre, to care about them and support them.
- That God will give wisdom to chaplains in responding to casual encounters in the town centre.
- The wellbeing of our town, and protection against divisive forces and hatred.
- Others to respond to God's call to join this ministry.
- Give thanks for a more secure tenancy for our office and good communications with the landlord.
- Others to respond to God's call to join this ministry.
- Give thanks for a more secure tenancy for our office and good communications with the landlord.

Chaplaincy Bank Details: Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy Trust, CAF Bank, Account: 00036785. Sort code: 40-52-40 Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy, Suite 1, Paddington House, Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7LJ, ☎: 01256 42232

admin@basingstoketownchaplaincy.org.uk



Basingstoke Night Light Winter Shelter 2025-26

Taken from OneChurch Basingstoke

The Night Shelter, which provides warm food and overnight accommodation for people who would otherwise have no choice but to sleep rough, will be operating from 1st December 2025 to 28th February 2026. Last winter 36 people spent at least one night in the shelter and more than 50% had found more secure accommodation by the end of the project.

This year the shelter will again rotate between 6 different church venues and we are looking for volunteers from across the town to join us in this demonstration of Christ's compassion for the vulnerable members of our community. Training will be provided.

To find out more about the project please visit our website www.basingstoke-nlws.org

Mayor's Carol Service

Saturday 6th December, 6 pm to 7 pm



@ St Michael's Church, Church Square, Basingstoke, RG21 7QW

His Worshipful Mayor, Cllr Colin Phillimore, would like to invite you to come along to the Mayor's Christmas Carol Service, Saturday, 6th December 2025 at time of 6pm.

Tickets – Tickets are FREE. Please go to this link to register and to get your tickets - Mayor's Carol Service Tickets, Sat 6 Dec 2025 at 18:00 | Eventbrite. This is purely for number count for Health & Safety and to ensure we have additional seats if required. Please bring your ticket with you.

Parking – The closest parking is the town centre or the back of the church by coffee bean shop off Churchill Way.

Accessibility – The church is fully accessible.

Taken from OneChurch Basingstoke

Help a family in poverty this year

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) has launched its 2025 Christmas Appeal, to provide emergency aid and support to UK families in financial hardship this winter.

The appeal aims to raise funds to provide essential assistance such as: emergency food parcels, fuel top-ups, free professional debt advice, and Christmas hampers or gifts, given in partnership with local churches and community groups.

CAP works with local church partners to deliver face-to-face help and support. You can donate directly or support local church initiatives creating Christmas hampers and providing emergency packages. Details at: https://capuk.org

75 years ago, on 25 Dec 1950 the 'Stone of Scone', the coronation stone of British monarchs, was taken from Westminster Abbey in London by four Scottish students. They transported it to Scotland but broke it. It was later returned to London and used in the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Since 1996 it has been kept in Edinburgh Castle, with the agreement that it will be transported to Westminster Abbey when needed for coronations.

Chaplaincy News, November 2025, Issue 9

"The times they are a'changing" – The Chaplaincy Team supported by volunteers, Honorary Chaplains and local faith leaders supports patients, visitors and staff of all faiths and beliefs and none on the three acute hospital sites (Andover, Basingstoke and Winchester) and the two hospices at Andover and Winchester. There are three full-time members of the team (Debbie – Lead Chaplain, Sarah and Ruth), two part-time team members (Jon and David), all supported by Miriam, our part-time Administrator.

Chaplaincy provides a 24/7 service and when a Chaplain is on call, they can be called to any of the sites. As a result, we all have a familiarity with each setting.

With Christine (who was the onsite Chaplain for Winchester) retiring, there have been some changes and Ruth is now 'based' more at Winchester. You will also find Sarah more at Basingstoke, and Jon more at Andover.

Please do approach any of the Team if we can help in any way or use the details below to contact us.

Email: CHAPLAINCY@HHFT.NHS.UK

Tel: 01256 414901 (x44901) or 01962 824906 (x24906)

Carol Singing on the Wards: Join us as we return to the wards singing traditional Christmas Carols:



• Basingstoke & North Hampshire Hospital – Wednesday 17 December, meeting at 6 pm in the Chapel. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Santa hats optional!!

Taken from OneChurch Basingstoke

Christmas Appeals for those in crisis (from Parish Pump)

Ukraine Crisis Appeals

Winter is coming, and in Ukraine that can mean temperatures dropping to minus 20C. With the war still raging, and vital infrastructure being destroyed by the Russian, millions of people are in need of food, shelter, warmth, and medical supplies. To try and help, several UK Christian charities are running Christmas appeals. *They include:*

World Vision: Its Ukraine Crisis Appeal works with partners to provide urgent aid, educational support, psychosocial assistance, and child-friendly spaces for displaced children and families. Details at: https://www.worldvision.org.uk

Tearfund: Sends emergency supplies through its Christian partners in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. It also engages in landmine awareness training and social support for the elderly. Details at: https://www.tearfund.org

Barnabas Aid: Its 'Winter Appeal: Save Christian lives in Ukraine' focuses on collecting food boxes, tinned food, new winter clothes, blankets, and medical items. It encourages UK churches to act as collection hubs. Details at: https://www.barnabasaid.org/gb/

European Mission Fellowship (EMF): Their 'Bibles and Blankets' Christmas Project works through trusted evangelical churches on the ground. Details at: https://www.europeanmission.org

 25 years ago, on 9 November 2000, Eric Morley, TV host, died. Known for establishing the ballroom dancing competition 'Come Dancing' (1949 – 98). It was succeeded by a celebrity version, 'Strictly Come Dancing', in 2004. Canon Paul Hardingham considers the Christmas story (from Parish Pump)

Christmas Unwrapped!

All of us have received unwanted gifts at Christmas. For Joseph the gift of a child, as recorded in Matthew chapter 1, was not something he really wanted. Although he was engaged to Mary, her pregnancy would be grounds for divorce. Not surprisingly, with the associated social disgrace, Joseph wanted to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). However, God intervened in a dream: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means, God with us.' (1:23). In a scary and uncertain world, what does the message of **Immanuel** say to us today?

God is present with us

God assured Joseph that He was working in all that Joseph was going through. The eternal and creator God entered time and space as a baby. This baby is both uniquely divine but also fully human. This means that we can know God personally, not just know about Him. The Holy Spirit is committed to making Jesus' life and character real in us, and bringing meaning to our circumstances, just as He worked in Mary's life.

God is on our side

Christmas touches some raw nerves in our lives, including stress, family rows, loneliness and financial pressures. However, God does not remain aloof from our experiences. In Jesus He enters our world of hopes and fears, joys and disappointments. He understands what we are going through, as He is alongside us. By the cross and resurrection, He gave His life that we might know His love, joy, peace and forgiveness.

For Joseph, as well as us, the Christmas message is one of hope in an uncertain world. It is a time to re-consider the claims of *Immanuel* (*'God with us'*) as we entrust ourselves to Him for the coming year.

By Tony Horsfall, a Bible teacher and conference speaker (from Parish Pump)

And there were Shepherds...

In his gospel, Luke tells how the shepherds in the fields were keeping watch over their flocks when they were terrified by the sudden arrival of heavenly angels, surrounded by the glory of the Lord. And the message of the angel that night has rung down the centuries: "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10,11)

And so, the first people to greet the Saviour were not rich VIPS, but humble shepherds. And in turn, it was the shepherds who became the first evangelists: for they would have gone home to their families and neighbours that night with the amazing news of what they had seen.

Meanwhile, for Mary there followed a time of reflection. She gathered up in her mind all her impressions, and all that the shepherds had shared about the angelic visit. She knew it was treasure, and not to be squandered. Then she quietly pondered in her heart the meaning and significance of all that had happened, so that she would never forget.

Exuberant witness and quiet contemplation are not opposites. They are, in fact, good companions in the spiritual life!

So, this Christmas, let's be filled with the joy that the Saviour has also been born 'to us'. May our lives reflect the glory of His coming, even in a small way. May our interactions with friends, colleagues and families during this Advent season reflect the great joy that the angels brought that night, so long ago.

Prayer for Christmas 2025 (PP)

Dear Father,

Christmas is coming. It's all such a rush – planning, shopping, spending, wrapping, posting, stressing! What's it all about?

Lord, help us, in all the rat-race busyness, to make time to focus on that baby at the centre of it all. That baby who is Your Son, who was with You in the beginning and who, with You, created all things; that baby who brings life and light and hope and salvation; that baby who was and is Jesus, God, made man.

Lord, we thank You for that baby-gift to us – the greatest gift there has ever been. Thank You that because He came, grew up, lived, died and rose again, there is light in the darkness of this world's mess – light that can never be put out, that evil can never overcome.

Jesus is the Light of the World. Putting our trust in Him, we thank You Lord, for Christmas – for Your grace and love for us. In Jesus' name.

Amen

by Daphne Kitching

(A more traditional poem – here are verses from a famous one by the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, written in 1863).

- We make a living by what we get.
 We make a life by what we give –
 Duane Hulse.
- A cheerful giver does not count the cost of what he gives. His heart is set on pleasing and cheering him to whom the gift is given – Julian of Norwich
- The second day of a New Year's diet is always easier than the first. By the second day you're off it
 Jackie Gleason

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day Their old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth,'
I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (PP) Nigel Beeton offers a lighthearted poem (PP)

The Commuter's Hymn

Onward, weary travellers
Trudging through the rain,
Onward to the station,
To await your train.
There, the platform's crowded,
No trains to be seen,
And the message 'cancelled'
On the station screens....

Onward weary travellers Off to catch your train Why do you keep saying, "Here we go again"?

Then, the speakers tell you,
News that won't inspire,
Seems some thieving vandals
Stole the signal wire.
Trains are going nowhere,
It's a day to dread,
It's not just the drivers
That are seeing red!

Onward weary travellers Off to catch your train Why do you keep saying, "Here we go again"?

At long last they fix it,
Signals turn to green.
Trains leave with commuters
Packed in like sardines,
'Onward, weary travellers',
We can hear them sing,
Wonder what calamities
Their next trip will bring?

Onward weary travellers Off to catch your train, We know why you're saying, "Here we go again!"

by Nigel Beeton

- Making the most of today is the best way to be ready for tomorrow – Anon
- Happiness is made to be shared – French Proverb

or the Young & Young at heart (PP) PUZ LES







A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20 Shepherds were paid to look after the flocks out on the hillside. Uneducated and rough, they were usually avoided, or overlooked.

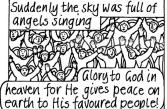












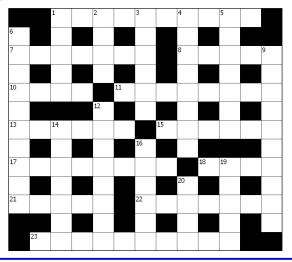














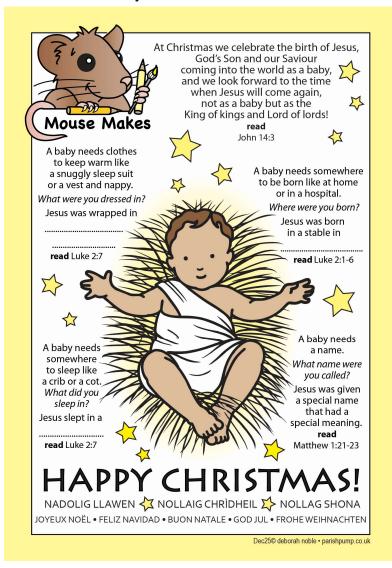
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Wordsearch Clues & Answers Are on the Next Page

Born Israel Healing Blind Virgin David Immanuel King Deaf Bethlehem Just Lame Ruler Right Mute

Crucified Rise Pierce Dead Hands Abandon Feet Decay Gloat Realm

Happiness is made to be shared – French proverb



Crossword Clues Down:

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)(5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)

Crossword Clues Across:

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith(6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Wordsearch Clues & Answers:
Did the Old Testament expect Jesus to
come? Yes indeed! Here are just some
examples of OT prophesies:

He would be born of a virgin. 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son and will call Him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14)

He would be born in Bethlehem. 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel...' (Micah 5:2)

His lineage would be of the line of David. 'I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.' (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

He would bring healing. 'Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.' (Isaiah 35:5–6)

He would be crucified. They pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. (Psalm 22)

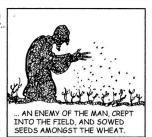
He would rise from the dead. 'You will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay...' (Psalm 16: 8-11)























CAN KEEP SEPARATE FROM IT

Puzzle Pages Solutions

Across: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing.

Down: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices.

9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat.

14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist.

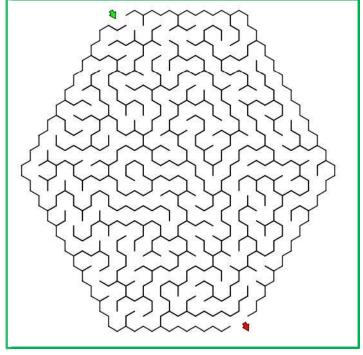
20, Save.

23, Settlement.

Sudoku Solution, medium

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

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Shepherds Saviour News Hillside Baby Night Palace Manger Heard Angel Heaven God Christ Glory Praising Singing Message Carefully Flocks Good Sky Bethlehem Mary Seen