

OPEN DOOR

For Churches in Tiptree, Tolleshunt Knights,
Great Braxted, Messing & Inworth



Messing Flower Festival



The Thurstable
& Winstree
Team Ministry

June/July 2023

£1.00

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**Deadline for the next edition: August/September 2023
Sunday 9th July 2023.**

Items for the magazine: can be emailed to thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com or
delivered to St Luke's Parish Office or sent to m.borgartz@btinternet.com

FROM THE TEAM RECTOR



“Say one for me, Vicar!” Lots of people ask me to pray for them, sometimes even people who have just told me they are not sure they believe in God. Praying for others is an important part of my job and it’s something I am always happy to do. I always end the day by praying for everyone I have been in contact with that day. On a busy day, it can take quite a while.

Some people find praying easy, others find it much more difficult. Some people like to use set words from a book, others just to chat to God as they go about their daily business, still others to pray through their pen or their paintbrush. There are many different ways we can pray and it is important for each of us to find the way of praying that is right for us at each stage of our lives.

On Saturday 17 June we are inviting you to come and explore some different ways of praying with us. We will be at St Luke’s Church in Tiptree 10 am to 12.30 pm (with coffee served from 9.30 am). There will be a couple of short talks and plenty of time for you to go off and try out different approaches to prayer. There will be music, words, creative ways of praying, silence – you will be able to choose how you spend the time. Everyone is welcome, whether you’ve been praying every day for decades or have never given it a thought. There is no need to book in advance and there is no charge.

And if you’d like me to say one for you, then just get in touch by phone (01621 815260), email (amlrenshaw@btinternet.com) or via our church Facebook page.

Anne-Marie



Where's Wendy been?

I am sure some of you have noticed that you haven't seen Wendy at church since the APCM at St Luke's and may have wondered where she is & what's happening. Well, as part of my LLM training I have to spend 100 hours working with a different church in a different context or setting. I have chosen to do this at St John's church in Colchester, so that is where I have been. I am just over halfway through the requirement now and should be back in St Luke's later in July (at the end of term).

St John's is a very lively church with three services on a Sunday and many members, including a lot of children. So, I am sure it won't surprise you to hear that I have been working with children there in their kid's church which runs during their main 10.30 am service. I have been attending their 9am service, for myself, and then staying to help with kids church, so far I have mainly been working with the youngest group, aged 3 up to year 2 (top infants as was). The other week I ran the group and there were 15 children (to be fair it was baptisms so a couple of them came with the baptism parties). I really enjoy working with a bigger group of children and am picking up various new ideas and ways of doing things.

I also help there on Tuesday mornings, Martin and I both went part time at work (4 days a week) in April. Unfortunately, our day off was supposed to be Mondays, but as with most churches not much happens on Mondays, so our days off have not coincided much so far, but this is only short term. On Tuesday mornings I attend staff Morning Prayer at 9am, then help with the parents and toddler group after that until around midday or a bit later, then attend their services meeting when they look back at how the last weekend went and forward to the next weekend and then into the future for upcoming events. It is interesting to see how another church plans things.

Everybody at St John's has been incredibly kind and welcoming to me, they really take the time with new faces to make sure you are introduced around to people, if I sit by myself in a service someone will always come and sit with me, so I am not left on my own. It's the little things like that which really make you feel welcome in a church. I was even told a few weeks ago, when I went to help with their Messy Church one Sunday afternoon, that I was an answer to their prayer for more helpers. It is definitely a church that is very full of prayer.

Although I am enjoying somewhere different, and they have taken me into their church family, I do miss St Luke's and am looking forward to seeing my own church family again.

Wendy



Pray as You Can

(Not as you can't)

Join us for a morning exploring many
different ways of praying

St Luke's Church, Tiptree

Saturday 17th June 2023

10am – 12.30pm

(coffee available from 9.30am)

Falling among thieves

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the after-effects of theft

And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves... Luke 10:30

Some of the saddest victims of crime include cases where people have been betrayed or taken advantage of by one of their own family members.

One victim lost thousands of pounds to someone with whom they shared a home. They had given their partner access to their bank and credit cards because they trusted them implicitly. Sadly, that person then accessed their accounts, spent the money, and even ran up thousands of pounds of debt. In the end, the police stepped in, and it became a criminal court case.

Is it worse being robbed by a stranger, or by someone whom you have loved? If robbed by someone you loved and trusted, it would be difficult to trust anyone ever again. And the sad reality is that your former 'friend' will probably have already spent all the money, and so there is little point trying to claim it back through the civil courts.

In cases where such betrayal ends up as a criminal court case, the police can put a victim in touch with victim support services, who will explain the court procedure to them (who is who, where to sit and what to call the judge or magistrate). If you win your case, the court can order a convicted criminal to pay compensation to the victim, and sometimes even make restraining orders.

Who can you trust? Inviting a new partner into your home and life is a big step, especially if you already share your home with others. Proverbs encourages us to take care in our relationships, especially whenever money is involved. If your partner or family member wants access to your finances, perhaps you don't need to agree right away.

Instead, take time to consider: why do they need such access? Money is power, and power is control. Why should they exercise this control over your resources? Why not tell them that you will go into your own account, and share with them any money that you have both already agreed upon?

The 'certain man' Jesus was talking about fell among thieves, but then the Samaritan cared for him. Sometimes we need to be good Samaritans to those in trouble.



COFFEE AT THE EXCHANGE



St Luke's Church and The Exchange invite you to
join us for coffee on **the third Monday of the month:**

15th MAY 19th JUNE 17th JULY 21st AUGUST

For tea/coffee & cake, 11 am to 12 pm

Cost: £2.50 for hot drinks (refillable) or
£5 for coffee & cake

Come along for good company and
conversation

Just turn up on the day

We are at: The Exchange Café, 33a Church Road, Tiptree,
Essex, CO5 0SU

and just over the road from the Church

Contact Christine & David Eaton to find out more:

01621 819166 Email: christine.gorringe@btinternet.com

Photo by Jeremy-Yapp-1992 22 on Unsplash

Reflecting faith – the Lectern

Have you ever considered the furniture that we have in our churches?

Close your eyes and think what your own sitting room looks like and the furniture you have chosen to go in there. Most of us will have chairs, a sofa, one or more tables of different sizes, a fireplace and a television. Which way are the chairs facing? What's the focal point?

Churches are no different in that they have most fixtures and fittings in common, and in set places.

In an Anglican church the focal item is the altar at the centre, with the lectern – from where the Bible is read out loud during services - on the right side as you look at it, and a pulpit on the left-hand side.

In a Methodist church the pulpit is often behind, but built higher than the altar, and probably with a mobile lectern to be placed as chosen.

This demonstrates a key difference between the two denominations. The former holds the bread and wine in greater importance whilst the latter gives that status to the preaching and the Word of God.

Such variations reveal the way in which we 'reflect our faith' through our buildings.

The word 'lectern' derives from 'to collect, gather', and again, 'to speak', so together it means 'to gather words, to pick out words.'

The words in church which we read from the lectern have been certainly carefully chosen and then written down. There have been centuries, indeed millennia, of time, thought, prayer and energy going into preparing the Bibles that we read today!

It is a privilege to be asked to read from the Bible during a service, as that will form the basis for the sermon, the hymns and indeed the whole theme for that day or even that week.

There seem to be two distinct styles for lecterns, either a 'simple' plain book holder or one in the shape of a bird. Both styles are usually made from either wood or gilt metal (brass).

The bird is an eagle - often holding the world in its talons. The intention being that the eagle is known as the most powerful bird, which can fly the highest and longest without pausing and so can take the Word of God - the Bible that it holds - to all the places in the world.

There are 44 mentions of eagles in the Bible, but just two to include here:

In Exodus after the Israelites have left Egypt and crossed the Red Sea they camp in the

wilderness, where they are not surprisingly worried about what will happen next. Shall we say ‘there’s a bit of grumbling and groaning’ going on?

So God calls to Moses with words to encourage them, *‘The Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.’* (Ex 19: 3- 5)

And the second is one to uplift us all when we are in need of support:

Isaiah in chapter 40 is trying to describe how awesome and powerful God is and concludes that even our youth will grow weary in comparison. However, *‘those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.’* (Is 40: 30 – 31)

So perhaps as we hear the words of the Bible passage read to us from that symbolic figure we are reminded to both trust in the Lord and to gain inner strength.

Bible Society to sponsor a garden at RHS Tatton Park

Bible Society says it is “excited” to be sponsoring a garden based on Psalm 27 at the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park in July. Psalm 27 is a profound meditation on loss, fear and faith.

Inspired by designer Ollie Pike’s reflections on burial grounds – “scenes of sadness, but also of hope and spiritual refreshment” — the Psalm 27 Garden will aim to lead visitors on a journey through pain to peace.

Ollie Pike first heard the psalm when attending a funeral. “Its hopeful message was very comforting at a time of sadness,” he said.

“The psalm speaks to me of protection and to be hopeful. It gives a feeling of comfort in difficult moments and to have faith that things will improve.”

The garden follows Bible Society’s sponsorship of Sarah Eberle’s Psalm 23 Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2021. The Psalm 23 Garden won a gold medal, Best Sanctuary Garden and Best Construction.

Bible Society hopes to use this garden to “introduce people to biblical wisdom, and to help them see that the Bible can speak to them today.”

11th June Barnabas , Paul's first missionary companion

Would you have liked to go to Cyprus on holiday this year? If so, spare a thought for the Cypriot who played such a key role in the New Testament.

He was Joseph, a Jewish Cypriot and a Levite, who is first mentioned in Acts 4:36, when the Early Church was sharing a communal lifestyle. Joseph sold a field and gave the money to the apostles. His support so touched them that they gave him the nickname of Barnabas, 'Son of Encouragement'.

Barnabas has two great claims to fame. Firstly, it was Barnabas who made the journey to go and fetch the converted Paul out of Tarsus, and persuade him to go with him to Antioch, where there were many new believers with no one to help them. For a year the two men ministered there, establishing a church. It was here that the believers were first called Christians.

It was also in Antioch (Acts 13) that the Holy Spirit led the church to 'set aside' Barnabas and Paul, and to send them out on the church's first ever 'missionary journey'. The Bible tells us that they went to Cyprus, and then travelled throughout the island. It was at Lystra that the locals mistook Barnabas for Zeus and Paul for Hermes, much to their dismay.

Much later, back in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul decided to part company. While Paul travelled on to Syria, Barnabas did what he could do best: return to Cyprus and continue to evangelise it. So, if you go to Cyprus and see churches, remember that Christianity on that beautiful island goes right back to Acts 13, when Barnabas and Paul first arrived.

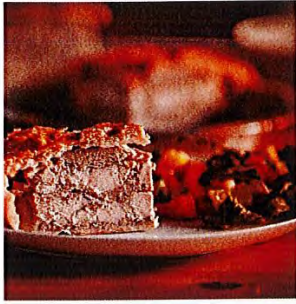
In England there are 13 ancient church dedications and not a few modern ones. Barnabas the generous, the encourager, the apostle who loved his own people – no wonder he should be remembered with love.

Number of working days lost to sickness skyrockets

Did you take time off work last year? Many of us did.

In fact, according to recently released official figures, a record 185.6 million working days were lost, due to sickness or injury. That is even more than during the first year of lockdown. In fact, 2022 was the worst year for sick days since 1995, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). 138.2 million days were lost in 2019.

The most common reasons we gave were minor illnesses, including coughs, colds, flu or tummy upsets. Respiratory conditions also overtook mental health as the fourth most common reason for absence in 2022.



LUNCH AT THE EXCHANGE



St Luke's Church and The Exchange invite you to join us for lunch on **the fourth Monday of the month:**

22ND MAY 26TH JUNE 24TH JULY 28TH AUGUST

Just turn up and order from the menu of the day

Cost: £12 for a Two course Lunch,
plus hot drink

Come along for good company and
conversation

We are at: The Exchange Café, 33a Church Road, Tiptree,
Essex, CO5 0SU

and just over the road from the Church

Contact Christine & David Eaton to find out more:

01621 819166 Email: christine.gorringe@btinternet.com

Photo by Rob Wicks on Unsplash

The pothole crisis deepens

If you drive, you already know this: the potholes are getting worse.

Some experts have warned that one in five of our roads will be undriveable in the next five years, unless we get to grips with the crisis.

In its recent annual survey on the state of the country's roads, the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA) has found that about 37,000 miles of road, or 18 per cent, are in very poor condition. Without intervention, these roads have less than five years of 'life' left in them.

But intervention costs billions of pounds. This latest 'Alarm' report estimates that now more than £14 billion is needed to fix all of England and Wales' potholes, and generally get the country's roads back up to standard.

Looking further ahead, the AIA predicts that while just over half of all local roads are in good structural condition, the remaining 100,000 miles of roads may need to be rebuilt in the next 15 years, unless adequate maintenance is speedily introduced.

It is not as if the government is ignoring the problem. Jeremy Hunt has provided an additional £200 million one-off payment to fix potholes on our roads. That is in addition to the Government's annual £500 million pothole fund. This means that in 2023/4, the Government is going to pour an eye-watering £700 million into holes in our roads.

Meanwhile, research by the RAC Foundation has found that one in 24 road bridges across the country are substandard, and therefore unable to carry heavy vehicles.

Steve Gooding, director of the RAC Foundation, said: "Whether it is potholes or bridges, there is only so long that councils can continue to patch things up before bigger cracks literally start to appear in the road network."

Finding the right Key

by Lester Amann

Ever since early times it has always been necessary for something to be locked up. Keys, in all kinds of shapes and sizes, have been needed to protect valuable commodities from thieves. Also, when people had to be punished or protected from others, they were confined in prisons with suitable locks and keys.

Apparently, the oldest discovered keys, made of wood, were found in ancient Nineveh – the city visited by the prophet Jonah. They are some 6,000 years old. Later, the Romans invented more sophisticated locks and keys made of metal.

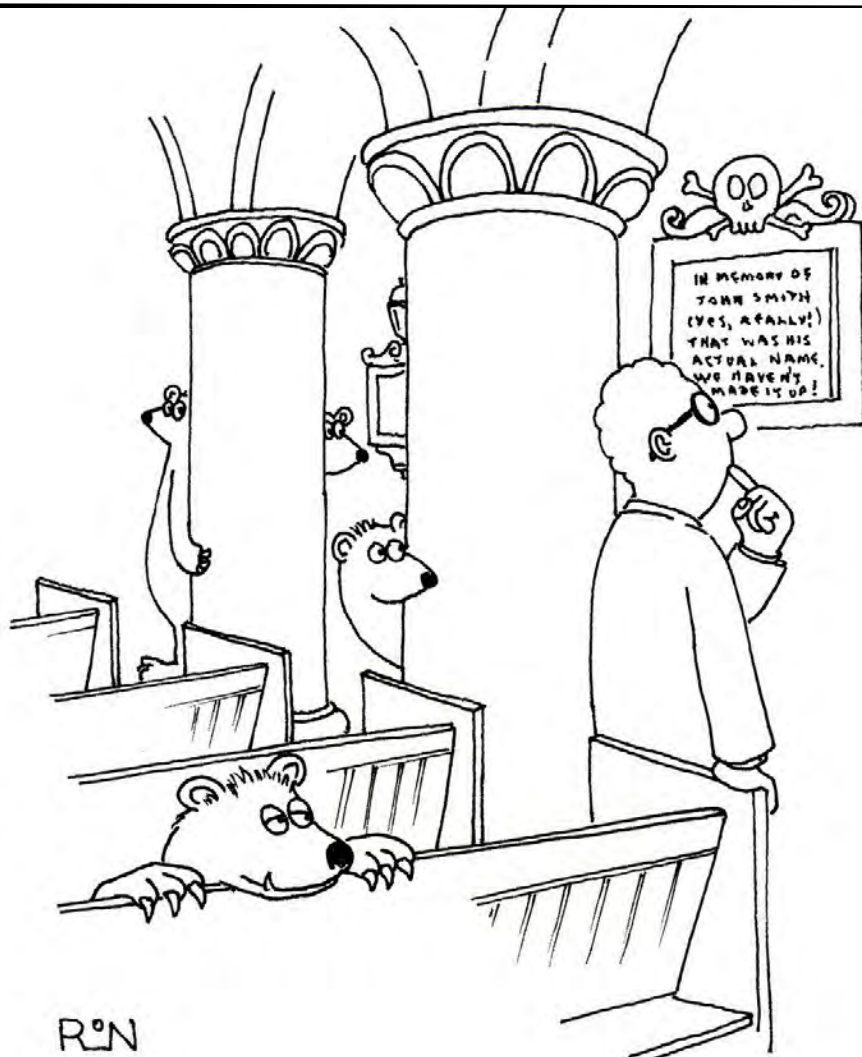
At the time of Jesus, the Jews needed access to the Kingdom of Heaven, and He came to open it up to them. Jesus spoke to the disciple Peter and said He was going to give him

the 'keys' of the Kingdom. (Matthew 16:18-19) Peter would unlock priceless Gospel truths. These keys were given to a trusted servant to open the doors of faith to all who wanted to hear.

Later, Paul described Jesus as an important key. The apostle was concerned that people in Colossae were in danger of following false doctrines and philosophies. Paul knew that all understanding and perception about God was found in Jesus. Only Jesus had the key to all concealed spiritual treasures. Paul wanted people to know Jesus, who would open the door to all they needed to know about their relationship with Him and their purpose in the world.

Sometimes we can lose a key. May we never lose hold of Jesus who is *our* key to life today and for evermore!

He (Jesus) is the key that opens all the hidden treasures of God's wisdom and knowledge.
(Col 2.3)



*Dennis spent a long time in church
looking for his forbears*



Messy Church !



Join us here at St Luke's
Church after school on:

Friday 9th June & 7th July

from 3 pm after school, to 5.30 pm

Food

Songs

Friends



Activities

Stories

Crafts

a short service

**Games
... and fun!**

More details from Revd Anne-Marie Renshaw:

01621 815260

St Luke's Church, Church Road Tiptree, CO5 0SU

Archbishop of Canterbury speaks about depression – and Winnie the Pooh

The Archbishop of Canterbury has said that he takes antidepressants so that he can maintain an "Eeyore status", instead of "something much worse."

He referred to his depression during a recent lecture he gave in Canterbury Cathedral, where he also spoke of having sought professional help for his mental health.

Archbishop Welby said: "As the psychiatrist I see tells me, the aim is not to make me so laid back that I'm horizontal, but just to settle things enough that I react like an average sort of human being. I'm sad when things are sad, and happy when they're happy, and so on and so forth."

The Archbishop went on to say that he likens human emotions to the characters in Winnie the Pooh, and compared himself to Eeyore, the often melancholy donkey, as opposed to a "bouncy" Tigger.

The Archbishop said that taking antidepressants "restore me to Eeyore status from something much worse." He went on: "Some of us are Tiggers, some of us are Eeyores. Probably, some of us are many of the other characters in Winnie the Pooh."

Archbishop Welby then recalled a conversation he'd had with a former Archbishop of Canterbury. "Rowan Williams once said to me: 'There is almost no human situation that cannot be explained with the hermeneutical tools of Winnie the Pooh.' Only Rowan could say that and be both humorous and profound at the same time."

God - the Three in One

This month we celebrate Trinity Sunday. The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most important of the Christian faith, for it goes to the very heart of what God is like. The Bible is quite clear: there is one God, but He is revealed in three 'persons' – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever wondered at what point in the Bible God is revealed as being more than one person? Well, you don't have to read very far: only to Genesis 1:26, where God (Elohim – a plural noun) says: Let US make man in OUR image. (Gen. 1:26)

The Bible reveals a pattern: God the Father lives in heaven and has never been seen. God the Son became the incarnate Jesus Christ, who made known to us the Father, and God the Holy Spirit, who is unseen, has been sent to live within and to equip His people, the Church.

The Trinity is basic to our salvation – for these three persons in the one Godhead have combined to save us from our sins: it is the WILL of the Father, the saving WORK of the Son, and the indwelling WITNESS of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16, 23-26).

Dates for your Diary

Sat 17 June - Team Conference

Everyone from our 9 churches and our sister churches in Kelvedon and Feering is invited to come together for a morning of study and reflection - (see pages 3 and 5)

Sun 24 June - Centenary of St Mary's Church Layer Breton 2 - 5pm

There will be a birthday party for the entire parish with tea, cake, music & photos, flower displays and representatives from the village.

Sun 16 July - 500th anniversary of the funeral of Henry Lord Marney

There will be a procession walking in the morning from Grove Road to Layer Marney Tower, with a service in the church, a picnic and events all afternoon at the Tower.

Sun 16 July - 5 pm Confirmation Service

Please speak to Anne-Marie if you have not been confirmed and would be interested.

Sat 23 Sept - Quiet Morning at Easthorpe Church

An invitation to take time for guided prayer and reflection.

Parent & Toddlers at St Luke's

Meet here every
MONDAY morning
9.15am - 11.15am

(includes holidays, but not bank holidays) photo by Marcus Spiske Unsplash



Everyone welcome! Parents
or carers, grandparents,
friends and childminders.



Meet up, have a chat, relax and play!



There is a small charge of
£2.00 per family - drinks &
biscuits are included



Further information from Margaret Peek 01621 810804
or Maureen Horn 01621 817497

‘Yes, I’m an atheist churchgoer’

Does everyone who attends church actually believe in God? It may seem an odd question, but Dr Peter Brierley has some unexpected statistics.

An English vicar had a regular church attender who came to church on average twice a month, and who volunteered to keep the church hall tidy. He also frequently helped out by doing practical repairs or improvements. But – he didn’t believe in God, in Jesus or the Bible!

In another church, while the PCC was discussing worship, the lady church treasurer suddenly said, “Yes, that’s all very well, but what about those of us who don’t believe?”!

An American university survey undertaken in 2022 by the Public Research Institute found that 29% of people who said they were atheists “sometimes” went to church. Another survey by *Christian Today* found that 1% of atheists went to church regularly, even weekly!

The obvious question to these findings is “Why does someone who clearly doesn’t believe in God go to a church set aside for the worship of God?”

An article published in *Backyard Church* on 3rd April 2023 suggested three reasons:

- 1) Some go to keep their spouse happy, usually the wife dragging the husband along.
- 2) Some go for the sake of their children, to increase family bonding.
- 3) Some go because they want to feel part of a community, and church communities are usually very friendly, welcoming and open.

In the 2021 Census, while 37% of English people said they had No Religion (which is not the same as being an atheist), just 14,000 (0.02% of the population) wrote in the word ‘Atheist’ in answer to ‘other religion’.

Sadly, no survey in Britain seems to have ever asked atheists if they go to church!

In a 2011 study, 12% of the UK population said they were spiritual AND religious, and 34% said they were spiritual but NOT religious. Clearly this is a debatable topic!

Good idea!

Have you ever been just sitting there, and all of a sudden, you feel like doing something really nice for someone else? That could well be God, prompting you through the Holy Spirit.

Book the Hall

for your meeting, group or event

we are in St Luke's Church Extension, St Luke's Church,
Church Road, Tiptree, CO5 0SU



**Good rates and
improved facilities!**



Hourly Rate:

£20 - regular bookings

£23 - one-off bookings

both including use of all facilities & kitchen

Wi-fi available for group leaders or speakers

(discuss your needs when making your booking)



Bookings & Enquiries to:

Gareth Williams: 01621 818069

Email: hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com

Why not give us a call?

Regular Hall Bookings, at St Luke's:

For all hall bookings call Gareth Williams

01621 818069

Email: hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com

Weekly	Morning:	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Parent & Toddlers, U3A Ballroom Dancing, Pilates		
Tuesday	Tiptree Volunteers Coffee Morning, (2 nd & 4 th Tues)	Pilates, Up in Lights Dance Academy	
Wednesday	Slimming World, WEA* (autumn/winter)	U3A Line Dance (2 nd & 4 th Wed)	regular private booking*
Thursday	Sounds Collective Choir Coffee morning	U3A Choir (2 nd & 4 th Thurs)	
Friday	Tiptree Art Club	Fitness Class	
Sunday	Coffee after Service	KYDS Youth Drama Society	Sunday Evening Youth Group
*term time only			

Monthly

Sunday	Sunday Club (3 rd Sunday morning)
Tuesday	Little City (1 st Tuesday morning), Priory Heath WI (2 nd evening in month)
Wednesday	U3A Genealogy (1 st Wed in the month); u3A Line Dancing (2 nd Wed in the month); Tiptree Tiplers (3 rd evening in month)
Thursday	Tiptree Garden Club (1 st evening), Flower Club (2 nd evening), St Luke's Ladies Group (3 rd evening)
Friday	Messy Church (1 st Friday afternoon)

If you are interested in making contact with any of the groups listed, please contact the Hall Bookings Administrator on hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com

When a little bit more exercise can help a lot

A recent study suggests that for every additional 500 steps you take each day, you may be lowering the risk of heart issues by 14 per cent.

To put it another way, this recent study found that adults who took fewer than 2,000 steps a day were 77 per cent more likely to experience a cardiovascular event in the following three years than those who took about 4,500 steps a day.

"We were surprised to find that every additional quarter of a mile, or 500 steps, of walking had such a strong benefit to heart health," said one professor of epidemiology at the University of Alabama. "While we do not want to diminish the importance of higher intensity physical activity, encouraging small increases in the number of daily steps also has significant cardiovascular benefits."

Songs of Praise is coming to Colchester's Castle Park Bandstand and we would love you to join us!

We hope you will encourage your congregation to be part of our outdoor recording of hymns and songs on **Saturday 10th June at Castle Park Bandstand, Upper Park, Castle Park, Colchester, CO1 1UN from 13:30 – 16:30.**

We will be singing some family favourite hymns, which will be conducted by Ken Burton and accompanied by a brass quintet.

All tickets to our recordings are **free of charge**. To apply for free tickets, please contact SOPcongregations@afantimedia.tv with your **name, contact phone number and the number of tickets you'd like**.

Please be sure to include '**Songs of Praise Colchester**' in your subject header.

Alternatively, you can call us on **07734 030 888** to book your tickets.

We don't have an automated system. Real people from the team will respond to you as soon as they can so please bear with us.

Please note we have attached a flier for the event and would be grateful if you would share this with your congregation and friends and family. Please feel free to print it and put it on a notice board.

Also, if the weather prevents us from recording outside, we will relocate to St Botolph's Church Colchester. Information will be sent to those with tickets via email.

We look forward to seeing you there.

King regards,
The Songs of Praise Team



Sing with Songs of Praise at
**COLCHESTER CASTLE PARK
BANDSTAND**

**Saturday 10th June
13:30 - 16:30**

**BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW:
SOPCongregations@afantimedia.tv
07734 030 888**



***Seating provided,
first come first serve.**



**Castle Park Bandstand, Upper Park, Castle Park
Colchester CO1 1UN**



Messing Flower Festival Pictures

Coronation Weekend 6/7 May





‘He gave us eyes to see them’:

Tintoretto’s ‘Christ at the Sea of Galilee’

Michael Burgess continues his look at great works of Christian art with ‘Christ at the Sea of Galilee’ by Tintoretto. It hangs in the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, and this graphic is in the public domain. You can view it online at: <https://images.nga.gov/>

In 1833 Mendelssohn composed two overtures inspired by the sea. ‘Fingal’s Cave’ portrays the gentle roll of the waves and the call of the wind on the waters around Staffa. ‘Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage’ paints a sea journey when the fog lifts, the sky clears, the safety of land beckons and the boat arrives in the harbour.

This month’s painting shows us a very different picture of the sea. It is ‘Christ at the Sea of Galilee’ by Tintoretto. He was an Italian painter of the Renaissance period who worked



in Venice until his death in 1594. All his paintings are marked by intensity and drama, whether it is the Last Supper, the Conversion of St Paul, or this canvas. Tintoretto worked so quickly and so single-mindedly that he was nicknamed ‘Il Furioso.’ And it is the fury of the sea that is captured here. Not the lazy waters of Venice or the calm seas of Mendelssohn’s music. Now

the sea and the sky above are in torment and revolt, and the world is dominated by the violence of this storm.

The Sea of Galilee is like that. One moment, the sky is clear and windless, the next, a gust can whip up the waters into anger. In Scripture the sea is always an element to fear. For the psalmist the sea contains creeping things innumerable and even monsters. For John in the book of Revelation, the sea ceases to exist when the new heaven and the new earth appear. The threat of that element is pervasive in this painting. The sail of the boat bends with the raging of the wind, and the vessel is tossed up and down – so near the shore, and yet so far. Above, the clouds frown.

But enfolding the scene are two signs of hope and life. To one side we see a tall tree in leaf and growing. At the other side is the tall figure of Jesus: a sign of safety and hope to the disciples, floundering in the boat. His feet are just vague outlines in the water, but His hand is firm as He beckons to His followers. Peter, brave and headstrong as ever, begins to climb out of the boat with no immediate sense of danger. This month of June ends with

his feast day when we celebrate a saint who was so much like us. Wanting to follow Jesus, but finding himself weak; eager to serve, but unable to back words up with deeds. And yet, through all that, God's grace triumphed in Peter's life. We know that he will be saved here as he steps onto the wild water to reach Jesus.

This raging element is a parable of life with its storms and challenges for Peter and for all of us. Just as the sea threatens to swallow the boat and the disciples in it, so we know how the world threatens to swallow us up. Each of us, in our discipleship, faces concerns and challenges, anxieties about the present, even despair about the future. Tintoretto is saying to us from this canvas, Reach out and take hold of the sure hand of our Lord. That will be an anchor for you when the sea of life is calm and when the storm rages. 'Will your anchor hold?' asks the hymn, and we can reply

*'We have an anchor that keeps the soul,
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
Fastened to the rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.'*



Baptisms

19 March	Brody Townsend	Great Braxted
2 April	Louis Wildego	Great Braxted
16 April	Thomas Joseph	St Luke's
30 April	Zachary Appleton	Messing
7 May	Oscar Stubbings	Great Braxted

Weddings

14 April	Josh Laver & Isabella Banks	Great Braxted
20 April	Paul Greenaway & Sita Murugiah	Great Braxted
11 May	Shane Crouch & Hannah Bird	Great Braxted
20 May	Peter Hudd & Lisa Farrell	Great Braxted

Funerals

20 March	Ivy Riding	St Luke's
23 March	June Lockwood	Weeley Crematorium
3 April	David Fenton	Chelmsford Crematorium
5 April	Reginald Kearns	Messing
17 April	Robert Jay	Colchester Crematorium
4 May	Derek Harman	Colchester Crematorium
16 May	John Dalzell	Messing



Tiptree Choral Society's summer concert on June 24th

will be a delightful cocktail of music from different genres and times. The choir will be singing across the decades of the twentieth century, with nods to the current century as well as glimpses back to earlier times. There's an international feel too, with music from our own country and also from the US and Canada and across Europe to Imperialist Russia. Do come along and enjoy it with us!

Saturday 24th June 7:30pm at St Luke's Church in Tiptree.

Tickets (£15, students £5, accompanied under 16s free) available from the beginning of June.

If a vicar asks you for money...

If you are contacted by a clergyman asking you for money, beware! It is a scammer.

Scammers have been impersonating various clergy, including even the Archbishop of York, to ask priests and other church people to buy them Amazon vouchers and online gift cards.

The scammers use either emails or texts, and their message is along the lines: "I have a request I need you to handle discreetly." They then say: "I am currently busy in a prayer meeting, so no calls – just reply to my email." Then the message asks the intended victim to send them financial help, usually in the form of vouchers or gift cards.

The police reckon that the scammers have trawled church websites for the contact details of clergy and parish officials. At least one person is believed to have been fooled – and lost £1000 in a scam.

As diocesan spokesman said: "It seems this is a national trend." The police are looking into it, and meanwhile, advising people that: "Clergy will *never* ask you to give them money, vouchers, or personal banking details directly, even to help someone in need.... it is a scam."

All in the month of June

It was:

70 years ago, on 2nd June 1953 that the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey took place. It was the first event where the British TV audience (20 million) was greater than the radio audience (12 million).

175 years ago, on 7th June 1848 that Paul Gauguin, French post-impressionist artist, was born.

65 years ago, on 9th June 1958 that London's Gatwick Airport was officially opened.

125 years ago, on 9th June 1898 that Britain leased Hong Kong from China for 99 years, and it became a British Crown Colony. It was transferred back to China in 1997.

300 years ago, on 16th June 1723 that Adam Smith was born. The 'Father of Economics', this Scottish economist and philosopher is best known for his book *The Wealth of Nations*, the first modern work on economics.

75 years ago, on 21st June 1948 that the ship HMT Empire Windrush docked in London, bringing the first large group of immigrants from the West Indies to the UK.

All in the month of July

It was:

185 years ago, on 1st July 1838 that British scientist Charles Darwin presented a paper to the Linnean Society in London, on his theory of the evolution of species and natural selection.

40 years ago, on 10th July 1973 that the Bahamas gained their independence after 250 years as a British Crown Colony.

100 years ago, on 19th July 1923 that insulin was introduced to treat diabetes

435 years ago, on 20th July 1588 that the Spanish Armada consisting of 130 warships set sail for England from Corunna, a day later than expected due to a storm. .

45 years ago, on 26th July 1978 that the worlds first test-tube baby is born in Oldham General Hospital near Manchester. Gynecologist Patrick Steptoe and physiologist Dr Robert Edwards are credited with this pioneering work.



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Mannequin
INTERIORS
BY RUTH HOULDING

UK foodbanks busier than ever

More food parcels were given out in the UK this past year than ever before. During December 2022, an emergency food parcel was handed out the equivalent of every eight seconds.

These are the most recent figures from the Trussell Trust, which supports more than 1300 foodbanks in the UK.

In all, the charity says it gave out nearly three million food parcels between April 2022 and April 2023. More than one million of these were for children.

These three million parcels from the charity's foodbanks represent a 37-per-cent increase in England on 2021. And more than 760,000 people used a foodbank for the first time, which is up more than one third in 2021-22.

Soaring inflation and energy costs have driven the increase in demand. The charity reports an unprecedented rise in the number of employed people using their foodbanks, because they are "no longer able to balance a low income against rising living costs."

The problem now, says the trust, is that food donation levels are not keeping up with the need. "This is putting us under a lot of strain."

Wordsearch

Each June, the Church of England holds its Petertide ordinations, to coincide with the feast day of the great apostle Peter, who led the Church at Pentecost. Simon had been a fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee, when his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus. When Simon made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus gave him a new name – Cephas, or Peter, which means rock. The ‘gates of hell’ would never prevail against Jesus’ Church, and He gave Peter the power of ‘binding and loosing’, and also the ‘the keys of the kingdom of heaven’. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and Jesus praying in Gethsemane. Peter betrayed Jesus but after the Resurrection, Jesus entrusted him to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ’s flock. Peter was the first apostle to work a miracle.



Simon	Andrew	Daughter	Crowded	Keys
Peter	Jesus	Garden	Feed	Kingdom
Fisherman	Rock	Gethsemane	My	Gates
Bethsaida	Transfiguration	Betrayed	Lambs	Hell
Galilee	Raising	Cock	Sheep	Binding
				Loosing

SEYG

Sunday Evng Youth Group

@ St Luke's

**Are you at
Secondary
School?
Want to
explore life
and the
Christian
faith with
likeminded
people?**



**Join us Sunday's Fortnightly*
7PM – 8:30PM**

@ The Hall, St Luke's Church

Want to know more?

Contact: andy@typo.uk.net

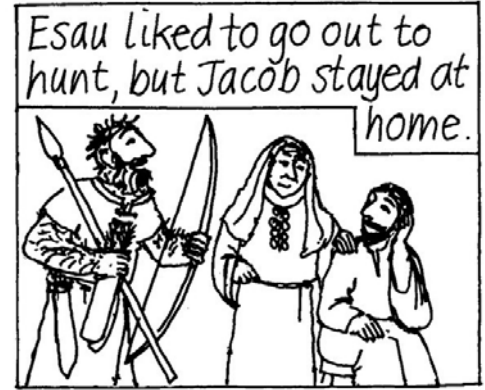
* Dates available from Andy via the above email address

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Genesis ch. 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons - Esau ('Hairy') and Jacob ('Grasper'). When the boys were born, God said...



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Genesis ch 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Jacob had cheated his father and brother, and had run away to stay with his uncle Laban. On the way there..

Jacob saw angels and heard God.

I will be with you

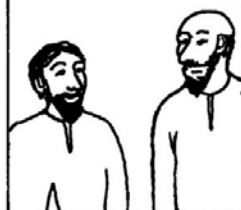


At Laban's house, Jacob met his cousin Rachel



Work for me for 7 years and you can marry her

7 years later



Can I marry Rachel now?

But Laban tricked him into marrying her sister Leah



So Jacob worked 7 more years to marry Rachel



Then he said to Laban

As you aren't paying me wages, can I have the black sheep?



Laban agreed, but that day he moved all the black sheep far away



But God blessed Jacob and his black flock grew



Laban became very jealous of Isaac



Your father doesn't like me any more. We need to go back to my home.



They waited until Laban was away..



but he was told ...

Jacob!





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St Luke's Ladies Group

15 June 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting

20 July 7.30pm

Travels in Australia - Paula Short

Various local charities are supported every year.
Look out for details about outings on the noticeboards.

MEETING IN THE CHURCH EXTENSION

3rd THURSDAY IN THE MONTH

at 7.30pm

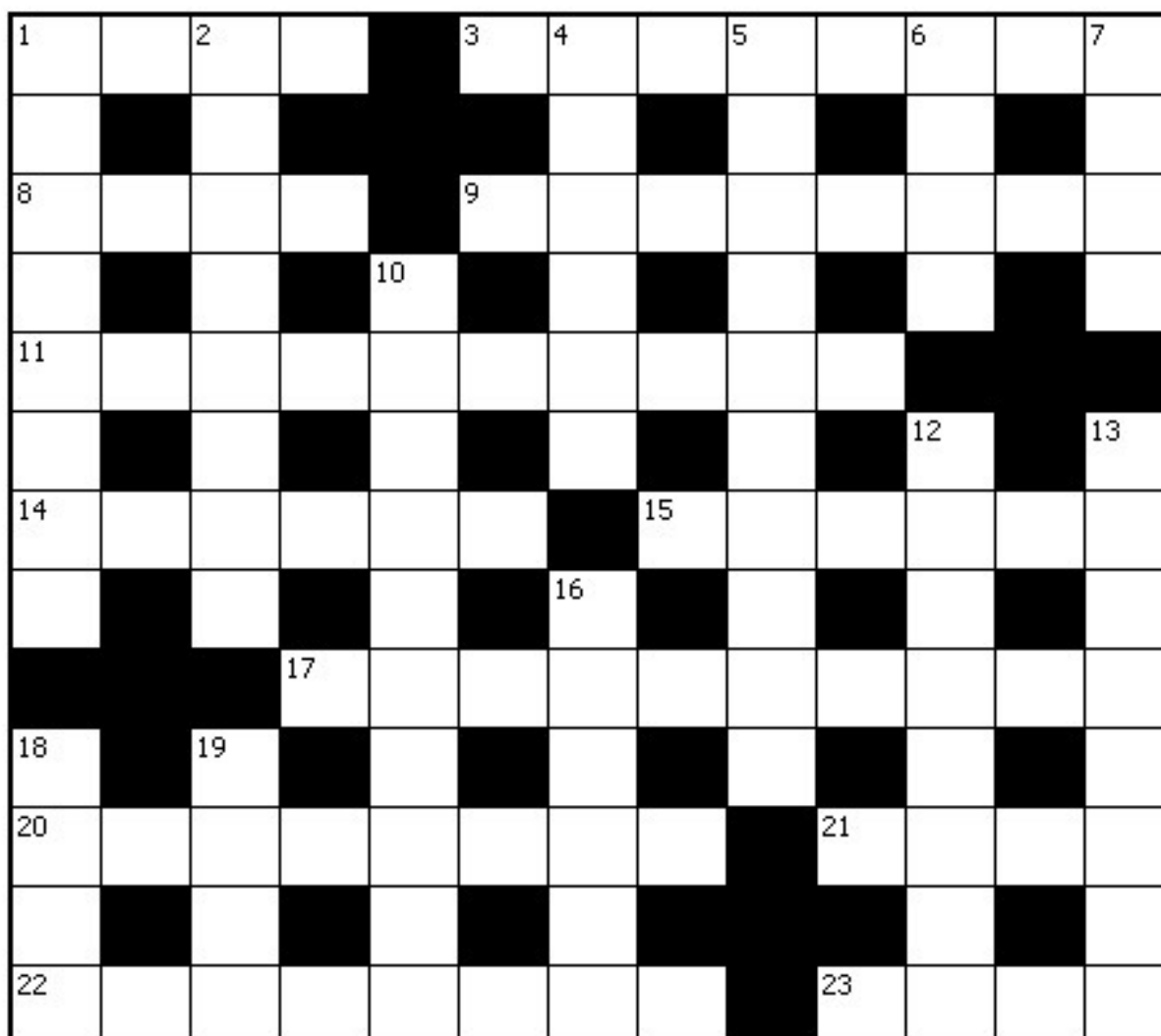
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& REFRESHMENTS**



**ST LUKE'S
LADIES GROUP
TIPTREE**

Crossword



Miscellaneous observations on life...

One test of a person's strength is his knowledge of his weakness. – *Anon*

He who tells a lie is forced to invent 20 more to sustain it. – *Alexander Pope*

The measure of your real wealth is how much people would still value you if you lost all your money. – *Anon*

The nice thing about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, somebody else always does. – *Anon*

Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

Beware the church microphone

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Despite my assurances that it was unnecessary, it was kind of you to loan us your sound equipment, so we could experience the advantages of using radio microphones in church. Your assurance that everyone would then be able to hear with absolute clarity seemed to miss the point that everyone does *not* necessarily want to do so.

I have no doubt that members of your congregation hang on to your every word, eager to make sure you remain theologically sound. But for us, those who had blissfully slumbered throughout my sermons for the last 30 years found themselves unable to filter out a single syllable.

Colonel Wainwright decided to change the start of his Bible readings from the customary "Here beginneth..." to "Testing, Testing" before giving the microphone a good biff, which made the verger dash outside to check if yet another medieval gargoyle had fallen from the roof. Also, forgetting that microphones pick up asides just as effectively, his own comment to his wife in the front pew "I thought I read that rather well" did nothing for the pride he has always cherished for his humility.

I was also not convinced that the 16th century workmen who had devoted the greater part of their lives reverently carving the Lady Chapel altar had intended it to support an electronic console that would have looked more at home in an aeroplane cockpit.

However, the event which finally decided us against microphones came about an hour after the service. Several of the choir boys had crept back into the church and decided to improvise a rock concert with their guitars and the mikes turned up full blast. The church exploded in a perfect cacophony of noise which panicked a horse and rider going by. The horse bolted down the road, which caused two cars to veer violently to avoid it. One car ended up in a pond, the other in a field, having ripped off a great deal of old fencing.

Whoever fixed the fencing failed, and later that night all 43 cows in the field escaped, and ended up in the Colonel's flower-filled front garden, where they spent a comfortable night slicing his velvet turf with their sharp cleats, and chomping everything in sight.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

What makes June so special

The Revd Dr Roger Roberts, pastor of International Baptist Church Brussels, considers light...

June is the month of light – the month of the summer solstice, when millions of people in northernmost Europe stay out late to enjoy the sight of the midnight sun. To have light and glory where there is usually darkness is something we celebrate, we welcome.

In John 9 Jesus said: “I am the light of the world.” He wasn’t comparing Himself to the summer solstice, but preaching at a Jewish occasion which celebrated light every bit as much. It was the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7:14), which was a celebration not only of God’s provision of water, but also of the light of God’s presence with the Israelites in the wilderness.

During the Feast of Tabernacles there was a joyful celebration. The priests would light four huge lamps in the Court of Women. The flames would reach as high as the temple walls and would provide a light that could be seen all throughout Jerusalem. Men of deep piety would dance throughout the night for the entire week of celebrating. A choir, accompanied by an orchestra of instruments, would sing psalms like Psalm 27, which declare “The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

At the height of this grand celebration, the Lord Jesus had the temerity to stand and say that HE was the light that was foreshadowed by the light for the Israelites in the wilderness.

The Jewish leaders were furious, and tried to stone Him to death. Jesus did not fight back, He simply illustrated His claim to be the Light of the World by immediately giving sight to a man born blind. (John 9).

In the 20 centuries since then, the Word of God, when it is proclaimed, has drawn people out of the darkness and into the light of Jesus. The Word is, as the psalmist said, “a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105). David said, “In your light we see light” (Psalm 36:9b). Today, by the light of the Word of God, we can see Jesus as He is: truly the Light of the World.

TIPTREE BEER & WINE MAKERS GUILD **(Otherwise known as the TIPTREE Tipplers Social Club)**

New to the village or simply wish to do something different? We started in 1970 as a wine and beer making guild and although members still brew their own and compete in our annual competitions, we are now more of a social club meeting monthly.

You do not have to make your own wine or beer or have any knowledge on the subject, the only requirement is to have fun and meet great people.

We have an event or theme each month sometimes with a guest speaker. There are always nibbles & cheese provided & sometimes additional food at a small cost.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at St Luke's Church Hall, 7.30pm for 8.00pm

You are most welcome to come and try out a night for free. Just turn up and make yourself known to Bill and bring a drink for yourself. There are no admission fees & our yearly membership is just £30.

See the church notice board for our events in 2023

Come along and ask for either Paul or Bill.
For more information contact Bill Bradbury on 07751 623647



Smile

Married

How many women can one man marry? A little boy who attended his first wedding worked that one out pretty quick: the answer is 16. It is easy, if you think about it. Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer. Comes to 16.

Blessing

It was the five-year-old boy's first trip down to the Communion rail at church. Fascinated, he watched the vicar place a wafer in the palm of each person kneeling before him. When the vicar reached the little boy, he ignored the child's out-stretched palm, and laid his hand on the child's head in a gentle blessing instead. The boy, utterly bewildered, whispered to his father in a piercing voice; "He's put it *on my head!*"

Reasons for marriage

Studying our wedding photos, my six-year-old asked, "Did you marry Dad because he was a vicar?"

"Not at all," I replied.

"Did you marry him because he was good-looking?"

"No, not that either," I replied.

"Did you marry him for his money?"

"Definitely not," I laughed. "He didn't have any."

"So," he concluded sadly, "you just felt sorry for him."

Gardening

Overheard at my gardening club meeting: "I never knew what compost was until I met my husband."

Marriage

During a heartfelt chat with her friend about relationships, my wife sighed and said, "You know, if something happened to Lloyd, I don't think I could ever marry again."

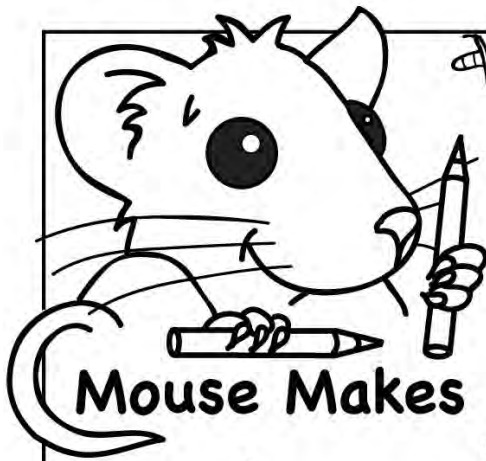
Her friend nodded sympathetically. "I know what you mean," she said. "Once is more than enough."

Plant

During our minister's very lengthy sermon, a large plant suddenly fell over right behind the pulpit, crashing to the floor. He smiled sheepishly. "Well, that's the first time I actually put a plant to sleep!"

Grandmothers

Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are not just all-wise, but also prehistoric.

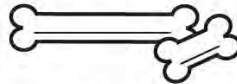


The Lord said to Moses,

"Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh
to let the people of Israel go out of his land...
The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord
when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."



As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the
Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...



1

Water turns to Blood

Which water turned
to blood?

Read - Exodus 7:19

2

A Swarm of Frogs

In which
places were the
frogs found?

Read - Exodus 8:3-4



3

A Plague of Gnats

When Aaron struck his
staff on the ground
what became Gnats?

Read - Exodus 8:16-17



4

Swarms of Flies

In which land were the
flies not be found?

Read - Exodus 8:22

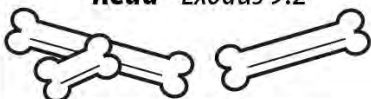


5

Death of Animals

Which animals that belonged
to the Egyptians died?

Read - Exodus 9:2



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

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON
WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH
FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES
GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT
BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE
MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND
DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

6

A Break out of Boils

What did Moses throw into
the air before boils appeared
on people and animals?

Read - Exodus 9:10

7

A Rain of Hail

What also rained
down with the hail?
Where did it not hail?

Read - Exodus 9:24-26



8

A Swarm of Locusts

Where did the wind
come from that brought
the locusts to the land?

Read - Exodus 10:13



9

Darkness over the Land

How many days did
it remain dark?

Read - Exodus 10:21-22

10

Death of the Firstborn

At what time would the
firstborn in the land die?

Read - Exodus 11:4-6



Place an advert in our church magazine - *Open Door*
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and

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Kenneth is strutting around, full of doggy indignation, having heard about the Public holiday in honour of King Charles. Now he wants to know when Chihuahuas will be celebrated! He is already treated like royalty around here, Tanya had to feed him by hand when he went off his food the other day.

He needs to get outside and say hello to the visitors because we are open again. The work on improvements is ongoing and the old place is certainly looking better but more helpers are needed to look after the animals including retired racing greyhounds, Bodie and Mikey. They are aged five and four respectively and have been with us one year. They could be separated but that would be a shame as they have always been together. They need an experienced home with no cats, two on-lead walks a day and a comfy sofa. If you have room in your heart and home for these beautiful creatures, please leave a phone message or email with your contact details.

We have many other cats, some rabbits and lots of dogs waiting for the right person to come along. If you are looking for a new pet to complete your family, please visit our website or call in to see our many rescued animals. We are open 10am to 1pm, Thursday to Sunday and look forward to seeing you. You may even catch a glimpse of Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua or me, Ollie (the Black) Cat.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Registered Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888 or email info@sesaw.co.uk www.sesaw.co.uk

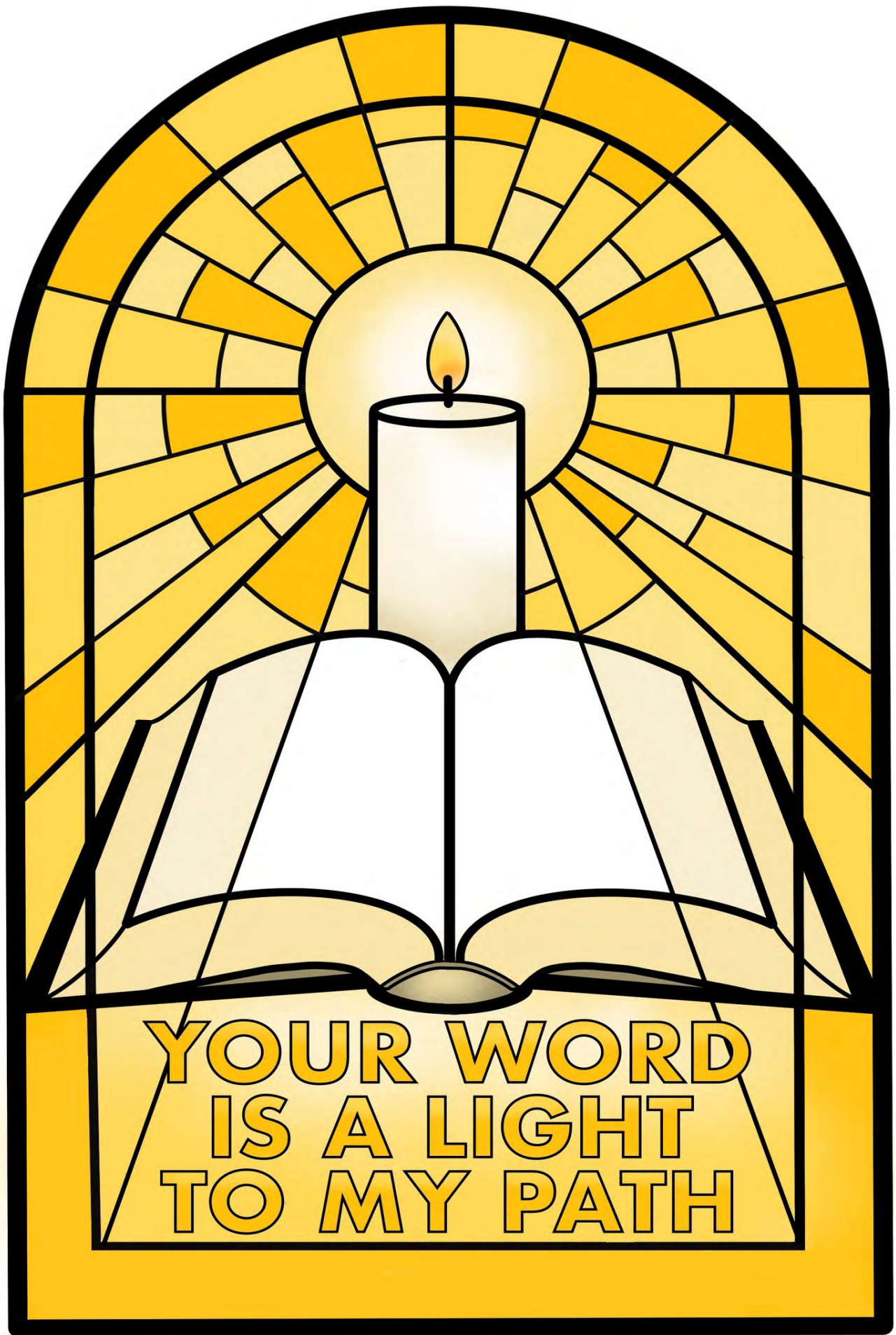


Bodie and Mikey

Solutions:

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



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