

August/September 2026

OPEN DOOR



The Thurstable
& Winstree
Team Ministry

£1.00

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

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Deadline for the next edition: October/November 2026

Sunday 6th September 2026.

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

Harold Toms writes:

In England, August is the principal month in which we take our holidays. The schools are all closed and usually the weather is the hottest and driest we see in this country. Historically having the whole month off school made children available to help with the harvest. For many of us, our happiest and most vivid memories of childhood are of family holidays spent, often, at the seaside. I know that is certainly the case for me, indeed my earliest real memories are of summer holidays. I say "real" although I'm not quite certain if the holidays of memory really reflect the reality. My family comes from England's North-West (Manchester) so we usually stayed in Southport on Merseyside (where my father had been evacuated to in the war) and paid visits to grand-parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. My recollection is that it was always sunny and that we spent large amounts of time on the (enormous) beach. I wonder if it really was quite so halcyon in Lancashire every year?



The word "holiday" derives from "holy-day" and for our ancestors the days off that they had usually were holy days. Obviously, there was Christmas and Easter, but also other important festivals and saints days. These days many of these formerly important festivals pass without notice. In August there are several important Christian celebrations. On the 6th we mark the Transfiguration of our Lord, a story recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Each account makes clear that God's salvation is for all and that Jesus is the chosen one of God who brings that salvation. On the 15th we remember Jesus' mother, Mary. The Church usually commemorates saints on the day of their death, and although Mary's place and date of death is unknown, for centuries August 15 has been celebrated as her principal feast. On the 24th we remember the Apostle Bartholomew, called in John's Gospel "Nathanael", whom Jesus describes as "an Israelite worthy of the name". Finally, on the 29th we mark the death of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ in both his birth and his death.

I hope that this August, whether you go away somewhere, or have a "staycation", that you will find rest and peace and perhaps add to your own memories of holidays past!

Harold Toms,

Licensed Lay Minister.

New listed places of worship fund launched

Guidance on applying to a new Government grants fund for listed places of worship to help pay for capital works including fabric repairs and essential improvements, such as electrical upgrades, heating, toilets and step-free access, has recently been published.

The Places of Worship Renewal Fund, for listed places of worship, was launched with details of its remit and eligibility criteria: [Places of Worship Renewal Fund | Historic England](#). The Fund will be administered by Historic England.

The £92 million scheme - £23 million a year - is for England only and will last for four years. It is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and replaces the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme.

Churches are being encouraged to explore making expressions of interest under the scheme with the application process expected to be proportionate to the size of the grant that is applied for.

The Bishop of Lynn, Dr Jane Steen, the Church of England's deputy lead bishop for buildings, said: "Our church buildings are national treasures for the common good, both for their spiritual, cultural and historical significance and the vital practical help they provide communities across the country.

"The majority of fundraising for the maintenance and repair of church buildings is done locally by thousands of wonderful volunteers. The Places of Worship Renewal Fund has a vital part to play alongside this local fundraising, and other funders who support churches.

"We welcome the launch of the Fund and we look forward to working closely with Historic England, in helping encourage eligible churches to make full use of the scheme."

The deadline for submitting Expressions of Interest for the second round of grants will be in September 2026.

The launch of the Fund has come amid concerns over the ending of the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme, after more than 20 years in operation. The Scheme repaid VAT as a grant on essential repairs and maintenance of more than £1,000 .



All Saints' Church, Gt Braxted, CM8 3EN

You are welcome to join us for our services at any time.

Services of Parish Communion for 2026:

5th April 11.15 am Easter Day Parish Communion

3rd May 11.15 am Parish Communion

and on 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September, 4th October

Our usual pattern of services with Parish Communion at 11.15 am on the first Sunday of the month continues through until October.

On Sunday 20th December 11.15 am we invite you to join us for our usual Carol Service

Wedding couples establishing a qualifying connection are also able to attend St Luke's Tiptree, CO5 0SU any Sunday of the month at 9.30 am.

Our church is currently in vacancy.

While we recruit a new Team Vicar, for any enquiries please telephone Revd Liz Barnes, 01621 333027

or, contact our Team Administrator, Christine Hall

thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com

Churchwardens Chat

I write this chat to you the day after our Visitation Service which was well attended by Churchwardens from around the area. I am not sure how many attended but the message given by Archdeacon Ruth was not about drains but our commitment to God and our work in our churches. The drains do have to be sorted from time to time but we have to remember God's love everyday and share it as much as possible.

I am pleased to report plans for the 170th Anniversary over the weekend of 16th, 17th and 18th October are going very well and we have some lovely events for you **ALL** to come along to and enjoy. I will give you full details in the next Open Door. In the meantime please put those dates in your diary.

Thank to those of you who have already given me some bottles for our bottle stall and the Christmas Coffee Morning. Sauce bottles, shampoo bottles, wine bottles are all acceptable. I thank you in advance.

FOSL have had some lovely events on recently. Our Jazz evening with Andy Brush was a huge success. His music is easy to listen to and I am sure we will be asking him to return next year so be sure to get your tickets early. The Games Afternoons are very enjoyable so if you like a game of cards or snakes and ladders you will be most welcome look out for the posters for the next date. Sadly though we had to cancel an event, I hope this doesn't happen too often. The Tea Dance looked like it was going to be a lovely afternoon I had ironed my dresses especially!!

Lastly I would like to thank you all for the many things you carry out within St Luke's Tiptree. Without you all playing the part you do, whether it's making the tea, or taking a service, or cleaning, or gardening, every job is important and I would like to say thank you to you **ALL**.

I think the storms seem to have passed over I will now continue my research on J J Mechi and yes he had connections with St Luke's.

Thank You

Sheila Gunson

6th August: The Transfiguration of Jesus

By Lester Amann

It's an unusual story. One day, Jesus is with three disciples on a high mountain in Galilee, when His appearance dramatically changes. Also, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, and from a cloud comes the voice of God. What is this all about?

This event was witnessed by James, Peter, and John. They were close friends of Jesus. In the future, they were to become prominent leaders in the Early Church. They needed to see something special that would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years

ahead. They had a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory. His face shone like the sun and His clothes turned white as light.

While this was an extraordinary sight for the disciples, it served to encourage Jesus who once had glory and majesty in Heaven. One day He would have it again. But firstly, He had to fulfil His mission: to suffer on the cross and die.

Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention of Jesus. The wonder of the Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face.

Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time – no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From *our* mountain-top experiences we all need to find a balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.

Parish Pump



"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."



For the last time! - Which member of the Junior Choir put bubble mixture in the organ-blower?!

Can you help?

Baptisms

We need some more people to help out at baptisms that are not held within a Sunday service. This is not an onerous task, it involves helping to set up, being a welcoming face, handing out service orders and showing families where to sit.

At the moment there are a very limited number who do this and it would be nice to have a group of people we could call on to help.

If you think you could help us, please speak to Revd Liz, or a Churchwarden.

Crucifer

At the moment we are down to one Crucifer, with Norman stepping in as emergency cover. If you think you would be able to join us on the rota please speak to Wendy. If you would like to have a try outside of a service you would be very welcome. Training would be given as to what is involved.



170th Anniversary

16th, 17th and 18th October 2026

I am pleased to tell you plans for the 170th Anniversary are going very well and we have a lovely weekend for you enjoy to celebrate this occasion.

Please may I ask you to have a look through your photo's etc for any pictures or other items related to Tiptree and St Luke's in particular for us to display to show the wonderful things we have done over the years.

Did you get married at St Luke's? Have you got a wedding photo we could borrow. Do you still have a wedding horse-shoe? I have some photos of a church Fete have you got something like this? Please let us know asap as we are starting to put displays together.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Sheila Gunson.

Tiptree Youth Project

what we've been up to

I'm writing this as we are rapidly approaching the end of another school year, so here's a quick round up of what we've been doing at **Tiptree Youth Project** this year (we re-branded from TYPO at the turn of the year)

Since September we'll have delivered **38 CITY sessions, 36 Wednesday Youth Club (WYC) sessions** and **been a presence in Thurstable School most weeks on Wednesday Lunchtimes** – that's been happening for 5 years now. We've also run *Sanctum* a reflective (prayer) space for year 7's at Thurstable School, alongside the *It's Your Move* year 6 transitions workshops in local primary schools.



When I say we I mean myself and since September with Olga and Erika as my part time youth workers plus a very small team of volunteers. With Olga and Erika around we were able to launch *GirlZone(ly)* for girls aged 15+ alongside WYC, and *Late Lounge* monthly for our older members after CITY. Sadly a gradual withdrawal of support from Essex Youth Service (EYS) for WYC has reduced our ability to offer *GirlZone(ly)*. WYC has seen a big drop off in numbers during the year, probably due to the impact of EYS not being able to offer consistent help, but we've seen a big growth in CITY as the year has progressed. We've also started a monthly *Youth Bible Study* as a follow up to a Confirmation course that was running. It's a very small group but an essential part of what we do. We'd hoped too to be able to take a group to FACT at Tollesbury for the weekend in September. Low numbers meant that that had to be cancelled as it was not viable.

Looking forward sadly I have to say that both of my part-time workers will have moved on by the end of July. Olga left us in April as she has a full time job now, and Erika will be departing too as other commitments have taken up her time. Both are sorry to be leaving us, but it can't be helped. Hopefully you will have seen we're currently advertising for replacements. Please spread the word. More importantly I need more staff just to stand still. I'm urgently in need of 4 more volunteers to enable us to carry on doing what we have been. Help is particularly need on Wednesday afternoons, as WYC is at risk of closing. Speak to me or Wendy Borgartz if you can help us.

Andy Andy@tiptreeyp.org

Books of the Bible

Canon Paul Hardingham

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians is the earliest of Paul's letters, written when he was in Corinth during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1–18) in 49–51 AD. Thessalonica was the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia, as well as being a flourishing centre for trade and philosophy. After founding the church (Acts 17:1–9) Paul was forced to leave, when he was falsely accused of speaking against Caesar. As the new Christians were left with little spiritual support, Paul wrote this letter to encourage them.

Paul addresses a number of issues throughout this letter. As they weren't expecting persecution, Paul reminds them that this is normal Christian experience (3:3–4). He also challenges those in the church who were living off wealthier Christians rather than earning their own living (4:9–12; 5:14).

However, the most prominent theme in letter is the second coming of Jesus. It is mentioned in every chapter of the book (1:10; 2:19–20; 3:13; 4:13–18; 5:1–11, 23–24). The Thessalonians were unclear about the timing of the day of the Lord (5:1–2). Some church members had died (4:13), and people weren't sure what would happen to them at Christ's return (3:10; 4:13). However, Paul assures them that when Jesus returns, the dead in Christ will rise to meet the Lord with the living (4:15–17). Therefore, believers don't need to fear God's wrath, but rather are assured of inheriting his salvation.

Living in the light of Christ's return calls for holy and blameless lives (3:11–4:8; 5:23). *'May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'* (5:23).

New Testament: 2 Thessalonians

Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians from Corinth, after Silas and Timothy had returned from delivering 1 Thessalonians, in AD 51/52. His purpose in writing this letter was largely the same as the first, as the situation in the church remained largely unchanged. He writes to encourage new believers facing persecution (1:4–10), to correct a misunderstanding concerning the Lord's return (2:1–12) and to deal with the problems caused by some who refused to earn their own living (2:13–3:15).

The theme of the second coming of Jesus dominates 2 Thessalonians as with his first letter. When Jesus comes, He will defeat the *'man of lawlessness'* (2:8) and bring justice to oppressed Christians and judge their persecutors and unbelievers (1:5–10; 2:9–15). Paul was challenging the false belief that *'the day of the Lord has come'*, leaving the Thessalonians shaken and frightened (2:1–2). As they were undergoing intense persecution, they thought that the second coming was imminent. Furthermore, the community contained believers who refused to work. They may have decided to stop

working and await the second coming of Jesus. However, they may have been exploiting wealthier Christians' generosity in order to avoid work.

Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians is one that we can truly share in our own circumstances, as we also live in an uncertain world: *'With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.'* (1:11&12)

Parish Pump

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

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: 07857 632603

hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com

Find us on Facebook:  / tiptreechurchhall

Regular Hall Bookings, at St Luke's:

For all hall bookings call Gareth Williams

07857 632603

Email: hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com

Weekly	Morning:	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Parent & Toddlers; Chair Yoga		Vocalise Choir
Tuesday	Tiptree Volunteers Coffee Morning, (2 nd & 4 th Tues)	Chair Pilates, Up in Lights Dance, Ballroom Dancing	
Wednesday	Slimming World		regular private booking
Thursday	Sound Collective Coffee Morning & Choir	U3A Choir (2 nd & 4 th Thurs)	
Friday	Tiptree Art Club	Chair Pilates	
Sunday	Coffee after Service	KYDS Youth Drama Society	

Monthly

Sunday	Sunday Club <i>please contact the church for details – thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com</i>		
Monday	Singing for the Brain (Tiptree Community Hub Group – 2 nd & 4 th Monday)		
Tuesday	Little City (3 rd Tuesday morning)		
Wednesday	U3A Line Dance (2 nd Wednesday afternoon) Tiptree Tipplers (3 rd evening in month); U3A Tai Chi 2.30 pm (3 rd Wednesday); U3A Tai Chi 1.30 pm (4 th Wednesday)		
Thursday	U3A History (1 st afternoon), 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), Priory Heath WI (2 nd Friday afternoon in the month) Games Afternoon (4 th 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

Find us on Facebook:  / tiptreechurchhall

May 2026

We love our trains – when they finally arrive

Trains are soaring in popularity. We are taking more railway journeys now than we have for 100 years.

In just April and May last year alone, we made a staggering 1.83 billion journeys by rail, according to the Office of Rail and Road (ORR).

That is the highest level of train usage since 1920, when in a two-month period, our grandparents made 2.18 billion journeys.

But there is bad news: train punctuality is woeful. Last year, more trains missed their scheduled arrival times than at any time since Covid.

The ORR's director of planning and performance, says: "As more people are using the railway, it's important to have a relentless focus in ensuring trains are punctual and reliable as possible."

Parish Pump

11th August – John Henry Newman, priest and Tractarian

John Henry Newman (1801 – 1890) was a highly influential 19th-century theologian, scholar and poet.

Born in London in 1801, the son of a banker, Newman had an evangelical conversion when he was just 15. He went on to Oxford in 1817, and in time became Fellow and then a tutor at Oriel College. Here he began the shift from evangelical Anglicanism to a more High Church understanding of the Christian faith. In 1826 he was ordained and became Vicar of St Mary's Oxford.

In the years that followed, Newman became a key leader in the Oxford Movement, whose aim was to renew the C of E by reviving ancient Catholic beliefs and traditions. He pioneered *Tracts of the Times*, writing three of the first four himself. He came to exalt the Church Fathers as on the same level as Scripture, believing that the Anglican Church was mistaken to insist on Scripture as the sole authority. Church and tradition, he felt, played an equal part.

Whereas other leaders of the Oxford Movement always remained Anglicans, by the time that Tract Ninety was published, Newman was losing faith in the C of E. In 1842 he retired from Oxford, left St Mary's in 1843.

In 1845 he was received into the Roman Catholic Church, and in Rome he was ordained priest and entered the Congregation of the Oratory. Returning to England, he established an Oratory near Birmingham and lived there most of the remainder of his life.

In 1854 he founded the Catholic University of Ireland (University College Dublin). In 1877 Pope Leo XIII made him a cardinal.

In addition to all this theological work, John Henry Newman loved poetry. He wrote many hymns, the most famous of which include: 'Firmly I Believe and Truly', 'Lead, Kindly Light' and 'Praise to the Holiest in the Height'. He also authored dozens of books. He died on 11th August 1890.

Parish Pump

12th August - the day a solar eclipse will darken the skies of Western Europe.

12th August will be the first total solar eclipse in mainland Europe since 1999. And many churches in the UK see it as a big opportunity for outreach.

On 12th August, the Moon will pass between the Earth and the Sun, blocking sunlight for over two minutes. Some areas like northern Spain, Greenland and Iceland will experience a total eclipse, but here in the UK there will still be a partial eclipse. Europe won't see a total eclipse again until 2090.

The Methodist Church says: "The eclipse will provide a great opportunity for churches.

"Holding community viewing events for the eclipse will allow churches to meet new

people and delight in the beauty of creation while engaging in gentle, relational faith-sharing.

“There are many ways to get involved – whether in a church garden or at the top of a local hill, by hosting a lively family barbecue or a space for quiet reflection, it’s a chance for science and faith dialogue or discussions about wellbeing.

“The key is to take this opportunity, a moment when people's openness to the divine might be elevated, to speak something of the love of Jesus – through actions and words – to the people we meet.

More info at: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/evangelism-growth/practise-evangelism/day-of-outreach/>

Parish Pump

Summer Holidays

Paul Hardingham considers

The story is told of porters who were hired to carry a group’s possessions on a jungle safari. The pace increased until the head porter called a halt: *‘We’ve come so far, so fast we need to take a break and allow our souls to catch up with our bodies!’*

How often do we feel like this? August is a month when many of us take time off. Jesus and His disciples often made *‘strategic withdrawals’ from the crowds: ‘because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, “Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”’ (Mark 6: 31,32).*

Jesus saw how tired and stressed His disciples were and wanted to give them a break in their busy lives. He loved them and cared about their wellbeing. He longs to do the same with us, so that we can restore the balance of work, rest and play in our lives. Going on holiday gives us the opportunity to take time off, to let go the burdens that we carry every day and receive again His rest for our souls: *‘Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.’ (Matthew 11:28).*

The story is told of the aged Apostle John playing with doves. A passing hunter expressed surprise at what a man as pious as John was doing. John pointed to the bow in the hunter’s hand and asked him why he carried it with a loosened string. The hunter replied, *‘it loses its strength unless it is given the chance to unbend’.* John replied, *‘why are you surprised that a servant of Christ should not relax to keep himself stronger for his work?’*

Parish Pump

Ordinary - but challenging

By Thomas Smith, Leysian Missioner at Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission in London, and a Methodist preacher.

In the church year, we are now well into that long season - it seems to go on forever - variously called 'Trinity' or 'Ordinary time'. Each of those labels tells us something about the approximately six months between Pentecost and Advent Sunday.

'Trinity' reminds us that with Pentecost, God has made Himself known to us in all His fullness (or at least as much as we can bear) as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 'Ordinary time' tells us that this is the season where, now armed with the insights and power of the Holy Spirit, we can revisit the life of Jesus with new eyes, new heart, see new things in the faith, see new opportunities to serve God.

This is the time when those words of Jesus (John 15:15) 'I have made known to you *everything* I have learned from the Father' come into play. It may seem a long season, it may feel like the drudgery of 'Keep on keeping on' without the excitement of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost to lift our spirits, but it is ordinary time charged with the knowledge that we have *everything* we need in the resources of God. The love of the Father, the words and works of the Son, the power of the Spirit will energise us as we 'keep on keeping on' through this long season.

This long season up to the end of November is a reminder that working out our love for God in our community is probably more about perspiration than inspiration. Few are called to be heroes of the faith, but all are called to faithfulness, and somehow or other, with the transforming power of the Spirit, we are all able to keep on keeping on, doing little things with great love.

Here's a lovely prayer which captures some of the mindset of the Trinity season/Ordinary time; it may help you 'keep on keeping on' through the months ahead;

*Let not our soul be busy inns that have not room for Thee and Thine,
but quiet homes of prayer and praise where Thou mayest find fit company;
where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away,
and wide sweet space is kept for thee.*

Amen to that. Ordinary - but challenging!

Parish Pump



Why you may be killing your houseplants

You see a lovely plant at the garden centre and bring it home. Within weeks you are watching it die. Why? There are eight possible reasons.

1. *Over- or under-watering*

When you water to an arbitrary schedule of your own (e.g. on your day off), rather than when the plant actually wants it.

Over-watering gives the plant 'wet feet', which can end in root rot. Under-watering stresses the plant, leading to leaf and flower loss.

2. *Tap water*

Some plants simply cannot handle the fluoride and chlorine in our tap water. They will do better with filtered water or rainwater.

3. *Windowsill shock*

That sunny windowsill can turn very cold overnight, and chill your plant's leaves and flowers. Slide your plant about four inches back from the pane, so that the roots are kept in 'room air' and not subjected to cold glass each night. And be aware that leaving your plants on the sill after you draw the curtains is to abandon them to the coldest pocket of the room.

4. *Toxic cleaning products*

Some cleaning products are designed to break down organic material. So, if you spray them into the air, rather than onto a cloth, particles land on your plant's leaves and begin destroying them.

5. *Build-up of dust*

Dust on leaves can block the sunlight the plant needs to photosynthesise. So, consider spraying or wiping the leaves every few weeks.

6. *Light and shade*

Plants vary a lot on this. If your plant is leaning towards the window, it wants more light. If it is scorched or faded, it wants more shade.

7. *Watering from overhead.*

Not always a good idea, because if water gets trapped around the plant base, it can rot the plant. Many gardeners prefer bottom-watering instead – adding tepid water to the base of the pot so that the roots can drink as much as they like.

8. *Beware little pests*

If strange designs are appearing on your plant's leaves, or if they look exhausted and discoloured, the culprits are usually gnats, thrips, mealybugs or spider mites. Your local garden centre will have advice or treatments on how to dispatch each one of them.

Tiptree Food Bank



.It may seem an anachronism that a prosperous area like Tiptree and the surrounding villages needs a food bank, but sadly this is not the case.

Cost of living increases caused by global activities mean that more people than ever are needing to turn to foodbanks for support. This increase in costs is felt right across communities, impacting on charitable giving e.g. it is noticeable this year that the level of donations to the food bank has dropped. This is a worrying trend as the food bank is entirely dependent on donations of food or cash. We



provide up to 100kg of food per week to people in need plus domestic essentials such as toiletries, nappies, toilet rolls and cleaning materials.

Each parcel contains sufficient food to last approx. three days. Everything we stock is non-perishable and as far as possible does not require long cooking. Food bank clients generally are also suffering fuel and heating poverty or do not have adequate cooking facilities. We are very fortunate in that Tiptree Community Hub is often able to donate fresh

foods such as eggs, bread and fruit and vegetables which improve the dietary content of our parcels.

The food element of a typical parcel for a family weighs 20kg.



Any afternoon at the foodbank is a busy but very rewarding time. Clients are all ages we see young families, the elderly and most ages in between. Everyone we meet is so grateful for the lifeline the foodbank provides. Just in the month of June the food bank helped 18 adults and 20 children.

Our food bank is open every Thursday for two hours, during that time a team of seven volunteers receive stock, prepare food parcels, welcome clients and where necessary deliver parcels to clients who do not have transport to reach us or the main foodbank in Stanway. Our delivery service is unique to Tiptree providing an essential service for those living in the surrounding villages.

The Tiptree Churches Foodbank was originally set up by the Rev. Anne-Marie Renshaw and operated out of St. Luke's Church but it grew and with help and support from the Rev. Ken Thoms and the United Reformed Church moved to the current base at the United Reform Church. It continued to grow and now operates as part of the Trussell (formerly the Trussell Trust) organization.

To help us continue this much needed work we rely on the support of the communities we serve; support in the form of non-perishable food donations, cash and volunteers. All three are fundamental to the success of the foodbank. Donations from school and church harvest festivals have always been a lifeline for us. There are food donation boxes in St Luke's Church Tiptree and ASDA in Church Road Tiptree. A note of caution items left in the donation box in Tesco Tiptree do not come to Tiptree they are part of a different giving system.

If you would like to volunteer we would love to hear from you. Ways you can contact us are below or speak to Rev. Ruth Hatchett or myself. Pat Southwood

Tel: 07835 941646 Email: tiptree@colchester.foodbank.org.uk



Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/tiptreefoodbank

Record number of grants awarded for conservation in parish churches

Grants for conservation of historic items and works of art in parish churches more than doubled in 2025 to nearly £600,000, with a record number of grants awarded by the Church of England.

Books from a library where Isaac Newton is thought to have studied, one of the oldest clocks in the country, medieval wall paintings, and even a medieval door are among hundreds of historic features in parish churches – from candlesticks to a Saxon coffin - to receive conservation funding last year.

Grants worth a total of £578,931 were awarded in 2025 by the Church of England's national conservation team, up 120 per cent on the £260,000 distributed the year before. The number of grants awarded rose from 124 to 190, in 37 dioceses.

The big increase comes after the National Lottery Heritage Fund announced a £4.69 million award in 2025 for the Church of England's conservation grants scheme, to run over the next five years. The scheme also continues to receive support from various trusts and funds.

Food Bank Shopping List

Items suitable to be donated:

Long life milk
Breakfast cereal
Fruit juice
Tea
Coffee
Biscuits
Jam
Squash
Tinned vegetables
Soup
Baked beans
Tinned custard
Tinned rice pudding
Tinned fruit
Pasta
Rice

Pasta sauce
Tinned tomatoes
Tinned meat
Tinned fish
Tinned potatoes
Cereal bars
Crisps (6-pack)
Sugar
Treats
Toilet roll
Toiletries
Laundry detergent
Cleaning products

Please make sure that food is in date, preferably with a good shelf life.

Thank you for your kind support

August 2025

Our favourite butterfly

The colourful peacock butterfly is our favourite, according to a recent poll.

The butterflies, with their striking colours and 'eye-spots' designed to fend off predators, beat 59 other British species in the vote run by Butterfly Conservation.

More than 20,000 votes were cast across the UK, with a rainbow of colourful species making up the top five.

The orange-tip butterfly came a close second to the peacock, followed by red admirals in third, holly blues in fourth and the bright yellow brimstone butterfly in fifth.

Butterfly Conservation, a wildlife charity, declared a "butterfly emergency" in 2024 as numbers recorded during the annual count fell to a record low.



A Good News Story from St Luke's, Tiptree

Although we have been in rectoral vacancy in Tiptree since last year, this did not stop us celebrating the Royal School of Church Music Sunday with on 14th June with a special Choral Evensong service.

It was a 'Come and Sing' event. A choir of over 30 singers gathered from all around the area, including St Luke's Choir and the Cantus Firmus Choir. All thoroughly enjoyed a choral workshop during the afternoon as



well as the service itself. The choir was directed by choirmaster Norman Eastbrook MBE, accompanied by Clive Eastbrook on the organ and Sharon Tidbury on grand piano.

The service began with the beautiful Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus sung as an introit, creating a sense of calm and anticipation in the church.

Revd Christine Newmarch officiated, leading the Ferial responses and later intoning the Collects.

The service setting for the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis was Brewer in D, but all joined in singing four wonderful hymns: Praise my soul the King of Heaven, Angel Voices Ever Singing, Ye Holy Angels Bright, and, finally, The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended.

The anthem was Fairest Lord Jesus by Martin How. St Luke's has beautiful acoustics, enhancing our musical offerings.

The preacher was Revd Jo Wood, who spoke about the importance of singing as a preparation for the time when, with God's grace, we shall all join with the angels singing in heaven.

The good news story was the gathering of so many singers from different churches and others less accustomed to choral singing, all keen to join together in worship, singing the wonderful liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer Evensong service.

The hymn Brother, Sister, let me serve you says: 'When we sing to God in Heaven, we shall find such harmony'. While I believe this to be true, let us find more opportunities to create good news stories and sing God's praises together here on earth. As the Choristers' Prayer says:

**"Bless, O Lord, us thy servants, who minister in thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen."**

WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Although we tend to see very few children and young people at our services on Sunday mornings, there is a lot of work done with them at other times.

Messy Church on the first Friday of the month (except August and January) continues to be popular. Many months we have between 25 and 30 children attending, with their parents or carers, and there is a happy buzz in the hall as they complete various craft activities then come into church for a short service before eating tea together in the hall. There are some months where, due to various factors outside our control, such as weather, activities at the school etc. the numbers are lower, but we are averaging good attendance. This could not, of course, happen without all the helpers who run the activities and make Messy Church work for everyone, with especial thanks to Ruth Hatchett who always comes up with lovely meals for the children. Some of our activities from June's event are below, when our theme was the parable of the wise and foolish builders – you can see the big picture they made in the Play and Pray space in church.



As well as Messy Church, I also go into Tiptree Heath and Birch schools to deliver collective worship, twice a term at Birch with the Key Stage 2 children and monthly with all the school at Tiptree Heath, while St. Luke's school come into church once a month for collective worship I lead with them. When St. Luke's school come in that is around 220-230 children plus teachers and support assistants coming into the church. When they all sing a song they know well, they really do raise the roof. That is without all the special harvest, Christmas, Easter and leaving services, which have also involved Baynards school, and visits to the church as part of the national curriculum. It is a real privilege to be able to talk with so many children about Jesus. I am also, with help from Andy Butt and Karen from the URC, continuing a monthly Youth Bible Study group with



two of the young people we confirmed last year.

We also have a very successful Parent/Carers and Toddlers group on Monday mornings, with many toddlers and babies coming and playing together in the hall. That is without thinking about work done by Tiptree Youth Project (TYP), who run the Wednesday Youth Club (WYC) and CITY on Friday nights. I help at CITY also and can report that numbers are good.

As with all work, we could do more with more volunteers to help, Andy especially needs more help if these groups are to continue running from September. If you know of someone whose heart is for working with young people and would like more information, please guide them towards me or Andy or any of the TYP trustees, who include Diana Webb and Eric Wilson from St. Luke's.

Wendy Borgartz

Team Rector Update

As reported in the last issue of Open Door the post of Team Rector was being re advertised, the closing date for applications was 22nd July. Unfortunately we have heard from the Archdeacon that there were no applicants this time around, although she had had a conversation with an interested party who had discerned that it wasn't the right move for their family at this time. We will consult with the Archdeacon and Area Dean on the next steps.

Messing Summer Concert

Messing Church, Saturday, 1 August 2026 at 7 pm

Yuri Sabatini

The Italian Tenor

“AMORE”

Romantic arias and lyrical favourites that speak of love, longing, hope, tenderness and strength.

FEEDBACK FROM LAST YEAR'S CONCERT

“brought to tears by his emotive expressions and very passionate vocals”

“a truly magical experience”

“a charming man as well as a phenomenal singer”

“a special night with Mum too as her request meant so much to her”

“I don't think I'll be able to hear that song again without welling up!”

“absolutely brilliant, thanks for a wonderful evening!!”

“Yuri exceeded our expectations by miles”

“I did not expect to cry or laugh but did both! I hope we can see him again”



Refreshments will be available from 6:15 pm and afterwards

**EARLY
BOOKING DISCOUNT**

Tickets

Advance tickets (up to 20 July) : £15

from Paul p4ul.marven@gmail.com or text 07842464812

After that, pay cash at the door on the day: £18

Children 12 and under free

HYMN: The story behind ‘Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken’

*Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?...*

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly playing through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn'. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 – 1874) anthem *Deutschlandslied*, which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...'

John Newton's hymn celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides. He rejoices that God protects his people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago he led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, he led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar; now we have his very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home.

Parish Pump

Smile

Flight path

Windsor Castle, outside of London, is directly in the flight path of Heathrow International Airport. While a group of American tourists was standing outside the castle admiring the elegant structure, a plane flew overhead at a relatively low altitude, making a tremendous noise. One particularly annoyed tourist demanded: "Why did they build the castle so close to the airport?"

Never too old for cricket

"Well, well," said the old gentleman to some boys who were playing cricket. "I wish I could join your game, but I'm too old."

"You CAN join in," said one young player. "Our ball has just gone through that window. You can go and ask for it back."

Bucket list

I'm proud to announce that I have completed the first item on my bucket list. I have the bucket.

Sky fright

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. "Can't you do something?" she demanded.

"I'm sorry ma'am," said the reverend gently. "I'm in sales, not management."

Whispers

A young curate lost his voice at the local football match one Saturday and, being due to preach the next morning, he thought he should call in and consult his vicar. So he rang the vicarage bell, and the door was answered by a very attractive teenage daughter. "Is your dad here?" the curate managed to whisper.

"No," she whispered back, thinking she had got the message. "Come on in!"

Nearly omnipotent

The curate was giving his young daughter a cuddle before she went to bed. As he picked her up and hugged her tight, she said: "Daddy, you're so strong! I really think you'll be God one day!"

Where are we?

When Columbus started out, he didn't know where he was going. When he got there, he didn't know where he was. When he got back, he didn't know where he had been. And he did it all on other people's money. Can't help thinking that Columbus reminds me of some teenagers who go on family holidays...

CITY

Churches In Tiptree Youth

Now
including
Late Lounge
an additional &
later monthly
activity for young
people in or
beyond school
year 10



**An inclusive Christian faith based Youth Club
for young people in school years 7* – 13 (ages
11 – 19) * open to year 6 from Easter**

Fridays, Term Time, 7pm – 8:45pm

@ Tiptree URC, Chapel Road

**Fun, games, sports, cooking,
lifeskills, snacks, conversation**

Want to know more?

Contact: andy@tiptreeyp.org



CITY CITY CITY CITY

Churches In Tiptree Youth



Messy Church !

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



- **Friday 4th September**
- **Friday 2nd October**
- **Friday 6th November**

from 3 pm to 5.30 pm

For:

**A simple
meal**

Songs

Friends

Games



Activities

Stories

Crafts

a short service

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

 Find us on Facebook: /tiptreestlukes

150 years on, Mothers' Union is a "powerhouse"

Archbishop of Canterbury

The Mother's Union is celebrating its 150th anniversary. At a recent service in St Paul's Cathedral, the Archbishop of Canterbury said she had seen first-hand the profound impact" of its work in communities around the world, "in family life, healthcare, education, social projects — challenging poverty, injustice and violence. . . In fact, I often say, if I need something doing, ask the Mothers' Union to do it."

Her sermon on Ephesians had asked: "How do we sustain ourselves as we serve? How do we nourish our own spiritual, mental, and physical well-being, whilst we are tending to the needs of others?"

The answer, she suggested, lay in St Paul's words: "I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

She continued. "May *you* know the depth of God's love in the grass-roots work that you do throughout the world. May *you* know the breadth of God's love as you strive to serve this global movement.

"You are salt to our world, in the ordinary, everyday ways you make such a difference to the people you serve, and in the fellowship that you offer to one another."

Parish Pump

Eustace King

& Birkin Funeral Directors



*Independent family funeral directors who pride ourselves on
caring for our local community in their hour of need.*

Tiptree (01621) 819145
87 Church Road, Tiptree, Essex. CO5 0HB

Email: tiptree@ekbirkin.com

On how to baffle the church committee

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

I was delighted to hear that you have been made chairman of the Missionary Sub-committee; it should help you to hone your skills in appearing to encourage committee members to contribute while ensuring that they only say the things you want to hear. It is a skill that needs not a little practice; democracy only works if all the important decisions have been made beforehand.

However, do remember that sub-committees are only formed in order either to kill an idea stone dead, or to give the chairman of the main committee some time to decide what he wants, since he isn't sure how to handle the issue at that moment. I formed a sub-committee in 1999 to discuss Miss Fothergill's suggestion of creating a 'water feature' on the Rector's Glebe land, as a way of celebrating the Millennium. More than 25 years later, we are still actively discussing the idea.

I noted at the time that no one wanted the thing on their *own* land. It's significant that whenever people suggest some imposing edifice, they always think it will be most appropriate either in the Rector's garden, or in some public place, well out of sight of their own homes.

While the Water Feature Group has been working away tirelessly, and endless masons and architects have been approached, a suitable design has yet to be presented. It looks as if a suggestion will eventually be considered by my hundredth successor as we enter the third Millennium. That is the customary rate of progress for St James the Least, which I find entirely satisfactory.

The procedure for decision-making is always the same: after enormous effort, the sub-committee will produce a carefully worded report, which will be circulated round all members of the church council. At the next meeting, they will be thanked profusely for all their hard work, and the matter will be discussed at great length. It will then be proposed that the final decision will be taken at the next meeting, after everyone has had time to consider the matter more thoroughly.

Come the next meeting, the item will somehow fail to appear on the agenda, and when it is raised in Any Other Business, it will be pointed out that it is now far too late in the evening to tackle such an important issue. From then on, you can be assured, it will sink without trace.

Always remember the golden rule: a church committee meeting consists of a body of people waiting to go home.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Friends 
of St Luke's, Tiptree



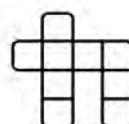
Games Afternoon

4th Friday, Every Month, 2-4pm

£3 per person

Includes Biscuits, Coffee, Tea,
& Good Company!

Rummikub, Cribbage, Scrabble, Mahjong, Cluedo...
and many more Games available



All in the month of August

It was

250 years ago, on 2nd August 1776 that the formal signing of the US Declaration of Independence took place.

125 years ago, on 4th August 1901 that Louis Armstrong, American jazz trumpeter and singer, was born.

50 years ago, on 7th August 1976 that NASA's Viking 2 spacecraft went into orbit around Mars. In two years it orbited Mars about 700 times and sent back 16,000 images.

40 years ago, on 9th August 1986 that the rock band Queen performed its final live concert at Knebworth Park before the death of singer Freddie Mercury. (Pneumonia, late 1991.)

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

100 years ago, on 17th August 1926 that George Melly, British jazz/blues singer, critic and writer on art history, especially Pop Art and Surrealism, was born.

70 years ago, on 27th August 1956 that Britain's first nuclear power station, Calder Hall in Cumbria, began operating. It was the first nuclear power station in the world to generate power on an industrial scale and formed part of the Sellafield complex. Closed in 2003.

All in the month of September

360 years ago, on 2nd September 1666 that the Great Fire of London begins in Pudding Lane and rages for 5 days, but kills only 9 people.

25 years ago, on 11th September 2001 that terrorist s flew planes into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC. Nearly 3,000 people were killed

285 years ago on 14th September 1741 that composer George Frederick Handel finished *Messiah* after working on it nonstop for 23 days.

325 years ago, on 17th September 1701 that King James II of England died whilst in exile in France.

110 years ago, on 15th September 1916 that tanks were first used in combat, during the Allied offensive at the Battle of the Somme, in World War I.

Wordsearch

John the Baptist

This month, on the 29th, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of his Son, Jesus. Jesus did not have an easy life, either.



John
Baptist
Rough
Obscurity

Desert
Bugs
Camel
Heat

Sun
Challenge
Muddy
Jordan

Arrested
Dungeon
Head
Cut

History
Great
Unique
prepare

The TEN YOUNG WOMEN



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS - WE CALL THEM "PARABLES".



JESUS ONCE SPOKE ABOUT TEN YOUNG WOMEN



THEY HAD BEEN INVITED TO A WEDDING - AND THEY WERE WAITING FOR THE BRIDGROOM.



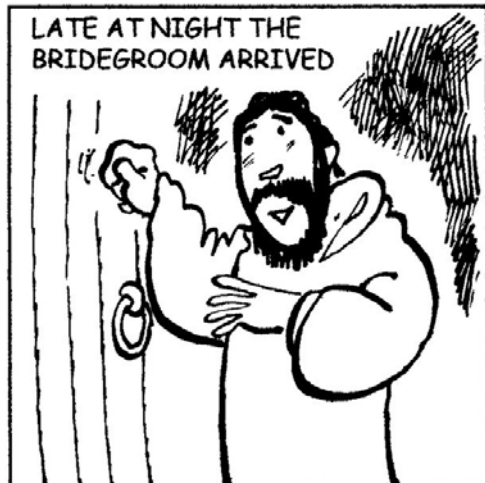
EACH ONE HAD AN OIL LAMP.



BUT ONLY FIVE OF THEM HAD BROUGHT ALONG SOME SPARE OIL.



LATE AT NIGHT THE BRIDGROOM ARRIVED



FIVE YOUNG WOMEN COULD LIGHT HIS WAY.



THE OTHER FIVE FELT VERY FOOLISH - THEIR LAMPS HAD RUN OUT OF OIL!!



See Matthew 25.1-13



GreenChristian

Colchester Group
invites you to

Exploring Eco Church

Greening your Church

Jo Herbert-James

Head of Engagement,
A Rocha UK



Rt Revd Roger Morris,
Bishop of Colchester

(video presentation)
Chelmsford Diocesan
Environmental Lead

Linda Percival

Chelmsford Diocesan
Eco Church Advocate



Saturday 17th October 2026

Christ Church, Ireton Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3AT.

9.30am Registration

10.00am to 4.00pm programme:

- Theology: climate change
- Eco Church: A Rocha's Bronze, Silver and Gold awards
- Workshops

Please bring your own lunch; drinks provided throughout the day.

Further information: please text to Howard Gardner 07831 101323

Green Christian is a charitable company, reg.no. 328744; charity no. 02445198.

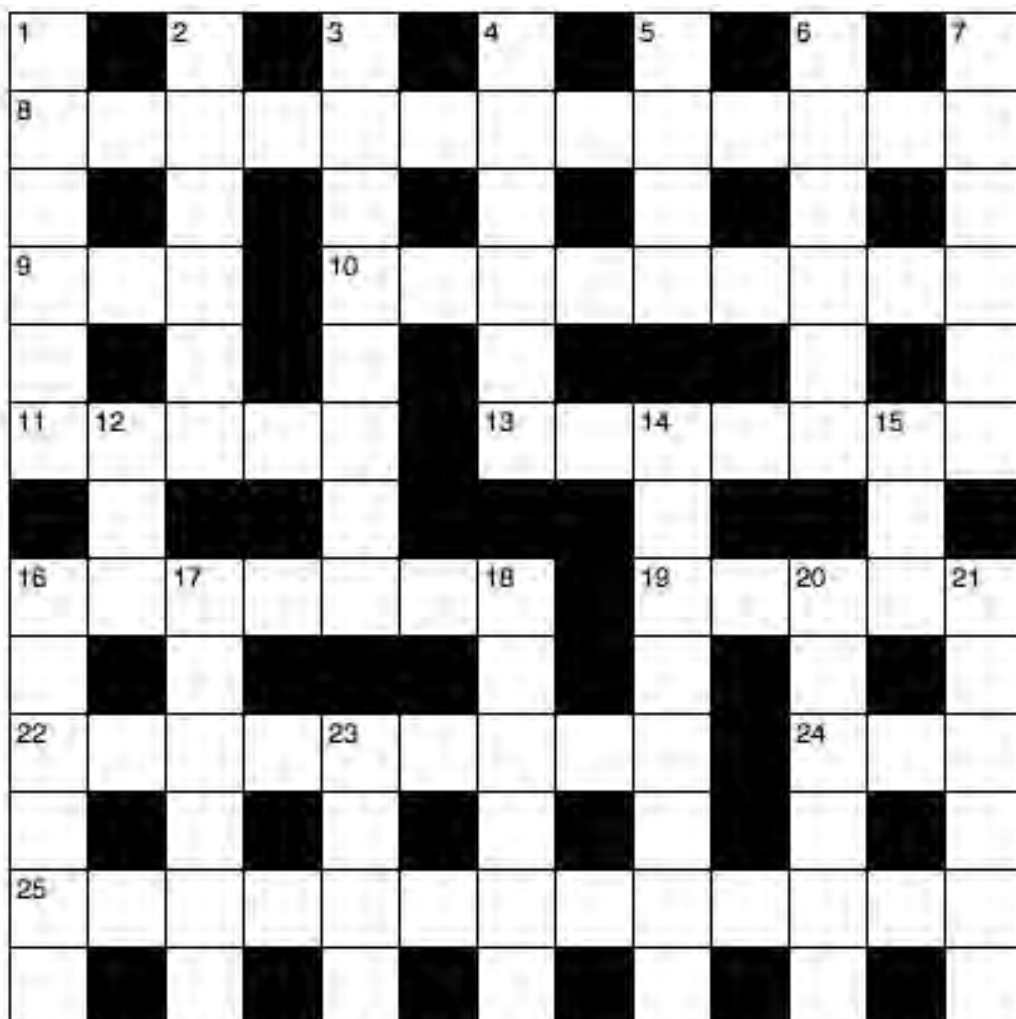
**Suggested
donation: £10**
(payable on arrival)





...Rodney, I've been meaning to have a word with you about your carbon footprint!

Crossword



Across

- 8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)
- 9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)
- 10 Single(1Corinthians7:27)(9)
- 11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps,
The — Archipelago (5)
- 13 Treachery(2Kings11:14)(7)
- 16 Of India(anag.)(2,3,2)
- 19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession,like men
condemned to die in the — ' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)
- 22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in
predestination (9)
- 24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to— the
ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)
- 25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt
(Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

Down

- 1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)
- 2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me,
Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)
- 3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings12:11) (8)
- 4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)
- 5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)
- 6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)
- 7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — — him in
your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)
- 12 Run(anag.)(3)
- 14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the
Church (8)
- 15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips'(Psalm12:4) (3)
- 16 Earnings(1Corinthians16:2)(6)
- 17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that——you have renewed your concern for
me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)
- 18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1)(6)
- 20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state(Daniel11:4)(6)
- 21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's
guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)
- 23 This month(abbrev.)(4)

Let's not take our cathedrals for granted

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E.

US Vice-President JD Vance may have criticised an art installation at Canterbury Cathedral – but a new report shows that the Church of England's cathedrals are its most popular places of worship.

They are also vital centres of community, arts and music and are major tourist attractions. But the latest research shows that many of the historic buildings are facing major financial challenges.

Religion think-tank Theos has published a detailed report looking at the role of cathedrals in modern England. The report, 'Living Stones: English Cathedrals as Sacred Spaces in Changing Times,' revealed that more than three-quarters (77 per cent) of adults in England had visited a cathedral at least once in the past three years.

The research showed that "Cathedrals reach beyond regular churchgoers. A majority of those with no religious affiliation have visited a cathedral in the last three years, and many enjoy worship, music, prayer or stillness while doing so."

Other research confirms that cathedrals have significant economic benefits, generating around £235 million of additional expenditure in their local communities a year, creating more than 6,000 jobs and mobilising 13,000 volunteers.

Yet the Theos research also points out that four out of five of the cathedrals operate 'in structural deficit' with no guaranteed national funding for their core functions.

In recent years, cathedrals have attracted criticism for activities aimed at drawing new visitors into their buildings. Last autumn, JD Vance criticised an art installation at Canterbury Cathedral, saying that the graffiti-style artworks had made "a beautiful historical building really ugly."

Other cathedrals have prompted complaints after installing a temporary fairground 'helter-skelter' inside the building or hosting silent discos.

Research from the Bible Society has shown that one of the top three places for people with no religion, or non-practising Christians to encounter the Bible was while sightseeing in a cathedral or church.

But one of the Theos report's main findings highlights the growing gap "between the scale of public benefit cathedrals provide and the level of recognition, understanding and support they receive."

The report concludes that, to survive and thrive, cathedrals need sustainable investment from funders that recognise the cathedrals' public benefits.

It also encourages visitors and local community members to consider joining a 'friends' scheme or making a regular donation.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 7:1-10, Matthew 8:5-13

When the Romans invaded Israel, they used soldiers to keep order. For the centurion in Capernaum it was more than just a job...

The centurion had a young servant who was in great pain and dying.



When he heard that Jesus was near, he asked the town leaders to ask Jesus for help.

The leaders told Jesus..



This man deserves your help. He loves our people.

He has even built us a meeting place!



This could have been a tricky situation, for Jews never went into the houses of non-Jews.



But Jesus said..

I will go and heal the boy.



But the centurion knew that, as a Jew, Jesus could not go into the houses of non-Jews so as Jesus got near, he sent some friends to him.



He says he isn't worthy enough for you to come to his house.

But he says he understands authority and knows you have it. You only have to say so and his servant will be healed



Jesus was amazed!



I have never met anyone in Israel with as much faith.

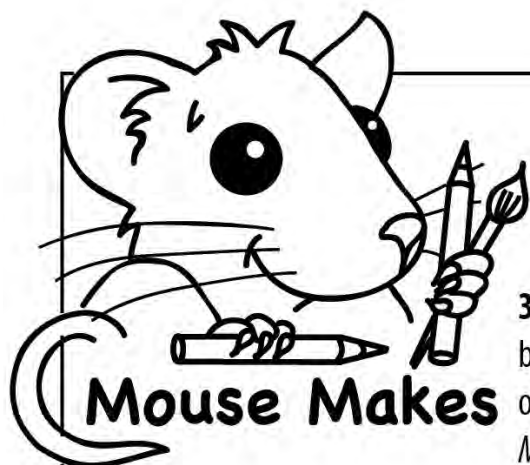
He said to the friends...



You may go now. What he has believed has happened.

When the friends got to the house they found the servant completely healed!





Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

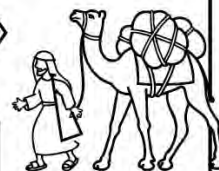
4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



EGYPT



JERUSLEM

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

10 JOURNEYS

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5

11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

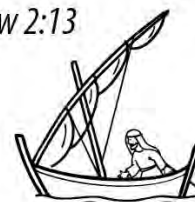
GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

JUDEA



St Luke's Ladies Group

- 16 July** Fraud Protection - Tammy Blest (Essex Police)
20 August Pauline + ?!
17 September Charity Night
15 October Tony Triedlander - Kinder Transport "My Long Lost Family"
19 November Lorraine Ely - Lorraine Sings
17 December Christmas Meal + Entertainment
21 January 2027 Joanne Larner - Wonders of Norway

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
ADMISSION £5.00
INCLUDES RAFFLE
& REFRESHMENTS



**ST LUKE'S
LADIES GROUP
TIPTREE**



Keeping the county warm



Fuel Services

Contact Bfs for prompt delivery of your domestic heating oil direct from our local Danbury Fuel Services depot. You'll find no better service, no better value.

T 01245 425251 www.bfsfuelservices.uk



Tiptree Guild of Beer and Wine Makers

Tiptree Tipplers



Meeting every 3rd Wednesday
St Luke's Hall, at 7.30pm for 8.00pm

- A fun night out in a friendly atmosphere
- Themed nights – see list
- Why not come along & give us a try - no commitment
- New members always welcomed
- Yearly membership only £35 with no entrance fee

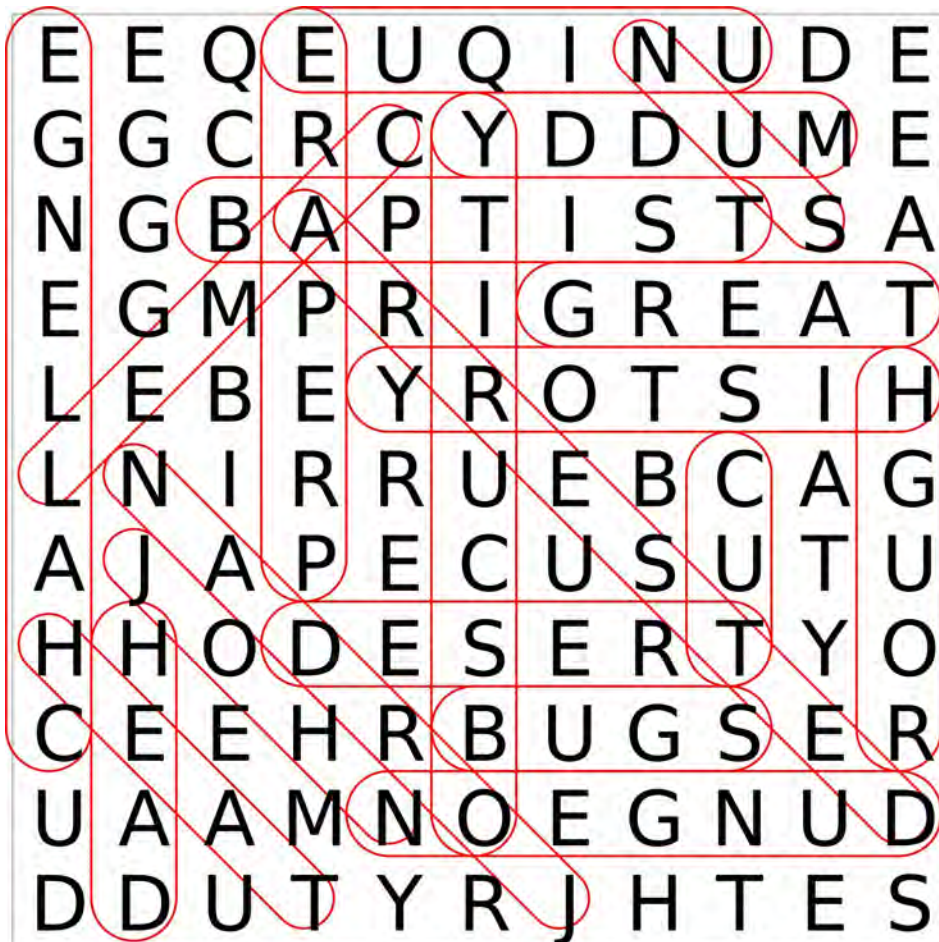
Upon arrival ask for Bill, Sonia or Neil who will welcome you
and introduce you to our club and members.

Our events for 2026 are –

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| • Jan 17 – Wine Roulette | • July 21 – Trip to Mersea vineyard |
| • Feb 18 – Valentine's quizzes | • August 19 – Vic's Cup |
| • Mar 18 – Bread & Jam competitions + quiz | • Sept 16 – Beer & Chutney Comp |
| • Apr 15 – First Aid | • Oct 21 – AGM + Hot Dogs |
| • May 20 – Financial talk and Fish n Chips | • Nov 18 – Mexican theme night |
| • June 17 – Wine Competition + quiz | • Dec 16 – Christmas party |



Solutions:



**For we are what he has made us,
created in Christ Jesus
for good works,
which God prepared beforehand
to be our way of life**

Ephesians 2: 10



The opinions expressed in Open Door are not necessarily those of the Ministry Team, Team Council or Parochial Church Councils of the Thurstable and Winstree Team Ministry. Open Door is not responsible for errors or omissions, accuracy of the content, nor the failure of any published event to go ahead.