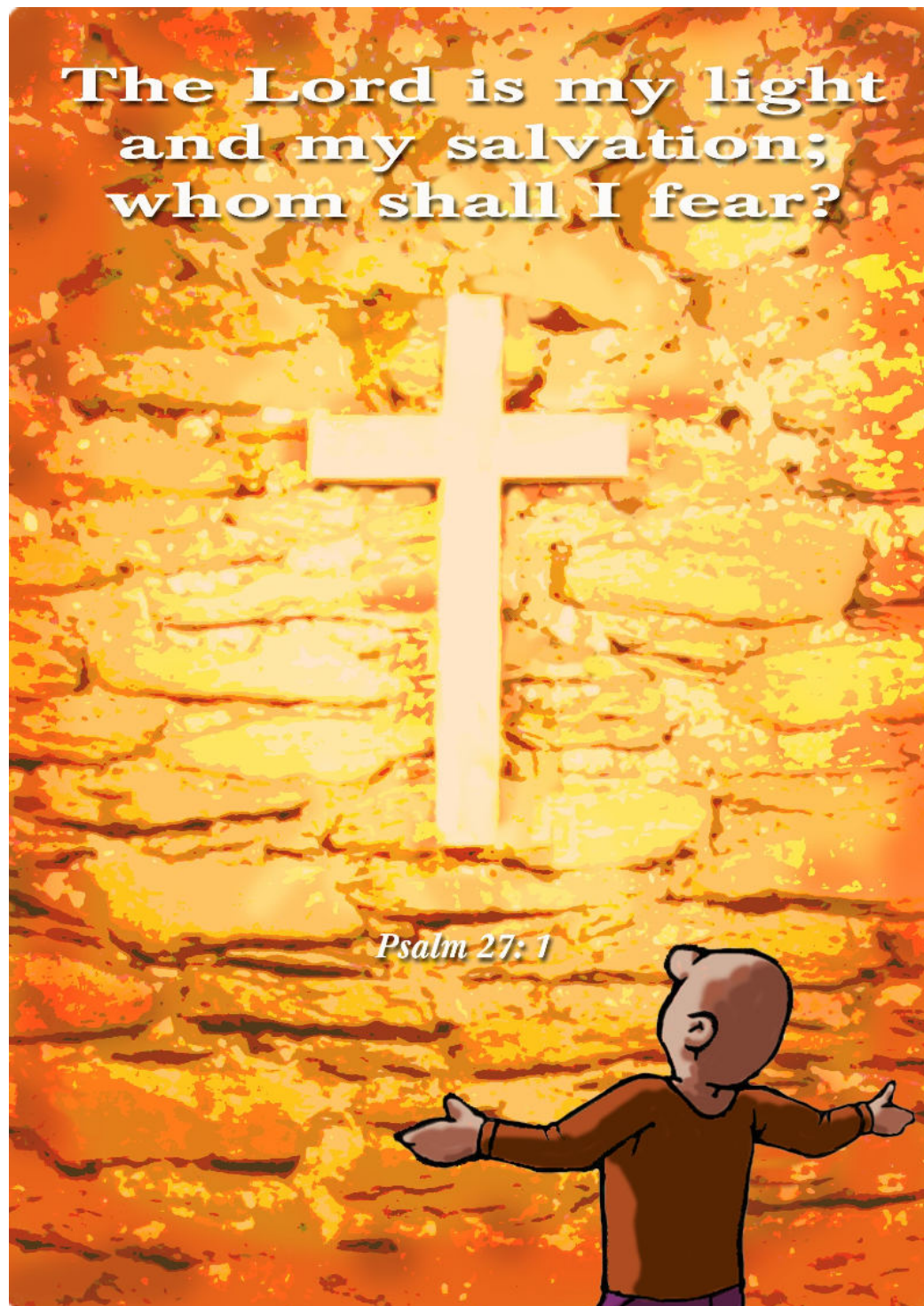


Christ Church Ramsbottom



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024

Church Services Sundays 10.30am

4th Feb	Cafe Worship	Susan Applegate
11th Feb		Stephen Crook
18th Feb	Communion Service	Stephen Crook
25th Feb		Phil Jump

Regular Activities at Church

Tuesdays	Prayer Meeting usually on Zoom	7pm
Wednesdays	Little Stars	9.30 - 11.30am
Thursdays	Drop-In Cafe Soup available 12-1pm	10am - 1pm

Dates & Events

17th Feb 9.30am	Circuit Prayer and Share	@ Bolton Road
18th Feb	Church Meeting after service and lunch	@ Church
27th Feb 1.30pm	Lent Bible Study	@ Church
12th March 1.30pm	Lent Bible Study	@ Church
12th March 7.30pm	Church Officers Meeting	@ Church
23rd March 2.30pm	Concert Monday Mondays with Monkuleles	@ Church
26th March 1.30pm	Lent Bible Study	@ Church

Induction of Stephen Crook

13th January 2024



Introduction and Welcome - Susan Applegate



Telling the Story Statement - Rev Stephen Crook



Induction - Rev Tim Presswood, President of the Baptist Union



Laying on of hands



Reading by Bill Raw - 1 Peter 2: 4-10



Message

Rev David Livermore - NWBA Church Life Minister



From our Minister Stephen Crook

O What a Beautiful morning!

Well at least it was when I wrote the following - the murky, damp, drizzly, not quite freezing- not quite thawing weather had succumbed to -7 degrees centigrade (for one day only) and was accompanied by bright sunshine and blue skies.

If it's morning when you read this I hope it's not too early for a joke!

Q - How many Baptists / Methodists does it take to change a light bulb?

A - 'Change???'

Of course, this 'joke' could be attributed to almost any group of people who may not be used to, or indeed welcome, change.

Change is often scary; it takes us away from what we're used to / out of our often well-established comfort zone and is often avoided like the plague - "now there's something!"

Over the last 18 months or so, as we've recovered from the now 'almost distant memory' of lockdown and isolation, we have had to concede that some things have changed - not least we ourselves, we've had to!!! AND whether we like it or not.

That said, not too deep down we all know that in order to make progress we have to consider and accept that some things have to change - including us.

As for me, I've always been a fan of change - "WAIT A MINUTE!!!" before anyone jumps in here and says "change for changes sake can ruin things!" - I'd agree entirely.

However, when change is well thought through - is purposeful and effective, it

generally changes things for the better and should, under those circumstances be welcomed.

However, as much as I'm a fan of 'purposeful and effective change, the greatest change to our world hasn't been technology, science, philosophy or medicine - even though these areas have all brought amazing change to our world - all of which we should be thankful for - and not least because we've grown to rely on them.

No! The greatest change to our world was, and still is, the advent of Jesus, **The** Saviour of the world. Our world needs Him now - arguably more than ever.

When He came though, the change He brought really did alter the 'status quo', it ruffled feathers, rattled cages and took people out of their comfort zone, He "disturbed the comfortable" yet "comforted the disturbed".

THANKFULLY - Whilst the change he brought was significant - He Himself has never changed; we're not left asking 'what's He doing now? Or "does he still love me? Etc, etc.

In the Bible, the book of **Hebrews 13: 8** gives us the comforting reminder that - **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.** (read the whole of chapter 13 if you can)

Right now, in connection to the conflicts that have begun around the world and 'trouble brewing' elsewhere, coupled to General elections both here and in the USA; with all the fear, anxiety, worry, concern, not

knowing; illness and pain that is affecting all people of the world - hear the words of the song:

"He's able, He's able, I know he's able - I know my Lord is able to carry me through. He heals the broken hearted, He sets the captives free, He causes the lame to walk again, and He makes my eyes to see. "He's able, He's able, I know he's able - I know my Lord is able to carry me through"

Maybe you're reading this yet have never known anything about Jesus. The comforting thing is that He's the same now

as He was when He walked amongst us. In a world that's changing more quickly than many can cope with - take comfort in knowing that He's still full of grace, mercy and forgiveness - well worth getting to know and is 100% reliable and trustworthy.

Whilst we may not agree with them - take time to pray for our leaders as they instigate and deal with change - they need your support, even if it seems that they are 'making it up as they go along.

May God bless you and bring you His peace.

Stephen

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Exodus

By Canon Paul Hardingham

This month we are looking at Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament. Its name means departure, reminding us that Israel's flight out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first part (chapters 1-19 & 32-34) is the story of an oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half (chapters 20-31 & 35-40) consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of God's people. The book introduces us to their salvation or deliverance, as story. God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews His covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments (20: 1-17).

At the heart of Exodus is the person of God Himself. In chapter 3 God reveals His name as YHWH or '*I am who I am*' (3:14) to Moses. This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament, expressed in the title 'the LORD'. To know God's name is to know Him, as well as His character ie His justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and holiness. He is the God who controls history, delivering the people out of Egypt, while the death of the Passover lamb points us to Jesus' death on the cross (1 Corinthians 5:7).

God's promises of help remain true for us today: '*Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today*' Exodus 14:13.

'This Exodus story continues to be a major means that God uses to draw men and women in trouble out of the mess of history into the kingdom of salvation.' (Eugene Peterson).

God in Music:

'Glorious the song when God's the theme': the *Nunc Dimittis*

The Rev Michael Burgess continues a year-long series looking at great works of Christian music.

St Luke tells us in his Gospel that the angels sang praises to God at the birth of Jesus, and he has given us three poems that have become part of Christian song: the *Magnificat*, the *Benedictus* and the *Nunc Dimittis*.

The first two are full of praise and rejoicing. The last comes as Mary and Joseph fulfil the Law of Moses and bring the child Jesus to Jerusalem. In the temple they meet Simeon and Anna. Simeon represents each of us who can look back over life with gratitude in the face of death as he says, 'Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace.' It is a story that has inspired preachers and artists, and also composers.

In the Christian Church these words of the *Nunc Dimittis* have become part of worship at the end of each day, not just the end of life. Cathedral and parish church choirs have sung settings of these words in that great tradition of Anglican choral music at Evensong - settings that have captured the sense of quiet resignation, but also conveyed the glory of the light that is Jesus shining for all people. Rachmaninov's setting is part of his Vespers, the night-long vigil sung in the Russian Orthodox Church on the eve of great feasts.

Rachmaninov composed the work (and it comprises 15 pieces) at great speed, but

even so, the Vespers are now seen as one of the great masterpieces of religious music.

This was no more so than in his beautiful setting of the 5th canticle, the *Nunc Dimittis*. Just 36 bars long, it begins with a rocking, undulating figure in the upper voices. A solo tenor enters as the voice of Simeon, and it ends with the basses moving down to a low B flat: 'a sigh of wonder and resignation on the threshold of eternal rest and peace,' one critic has called it.

Rachmaninov later recalled, "After I played the passage at the end of the 5th canticle where the basses slowly descend to that low note, the conductor shook his head, saying, 'Now where on earth will we find such basses? They are as rare as asparagus at Christmas!' Nevertheless, he did find them." It was one of the composer's favourite pieces, and he asked for it to be sung at his funeral in the hope that it would send his 'ship of death gently towards the unknown region.'"

On 2nd February we shall hear these words as part of the Gospel on the feast of Candlemas. Simeon prays them because his cup is now overflowing. He has looked on the salvation of God. Music allows us to look on that glory and salvation also, and Rachmaninov, in his moving setting, has captured the calm trust of that moment, which shines out like the brightness of the light of Jesus.

Bye bye

I like long walks, especially when taken by people who annoy me.

God in the Sciences

Celebrating the now and future Creation

by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.
See www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches and <http://www.cis.org.uk>

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. After creation's winter shutdown, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, "Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction." I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2024, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. In the face of climate change, we urgently need to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God's help.

Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new heaven and a new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2024 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.



Happy Belated Birthday
16th Jan Judith

Happy Birthday
16th Feb John

To join the birthday scheme please contact Mary

Church Directory

Christ Church has a directory (either digital or printed) to enable the congregation to contact each other by phone, email or address. It is due to be republished at the end of February.

If you would like to be included in the new directory, you don't have to be a member, but will need to see John Leyland for a form requiring your permission. Your permission is also required if you would like to be included on the email list or be part of the WhatsApp Group.

If you are already in the directory, and your details haven't changed, there is no need to contact John unless you want to be removed from the update.

Church Offering Envelopes

Christ Church uses weekly Offering envelopes to keep your offerings confidential and also to encourage you to give an offering on the weeks that you cannot come to church.

If you would like to be part of the scheme, please see John Leyland. New envelopes will be available from April, although there are still some available for this year.

Action for Children Donation

The retiring collection at our Christmas Day Service raised £130 which has been sent to Action for Children. Thank you to all who donated.

Connie Butterworth

1932 - 2023



Thank you for your prayers, thoughts and generous donations in memory of Connie



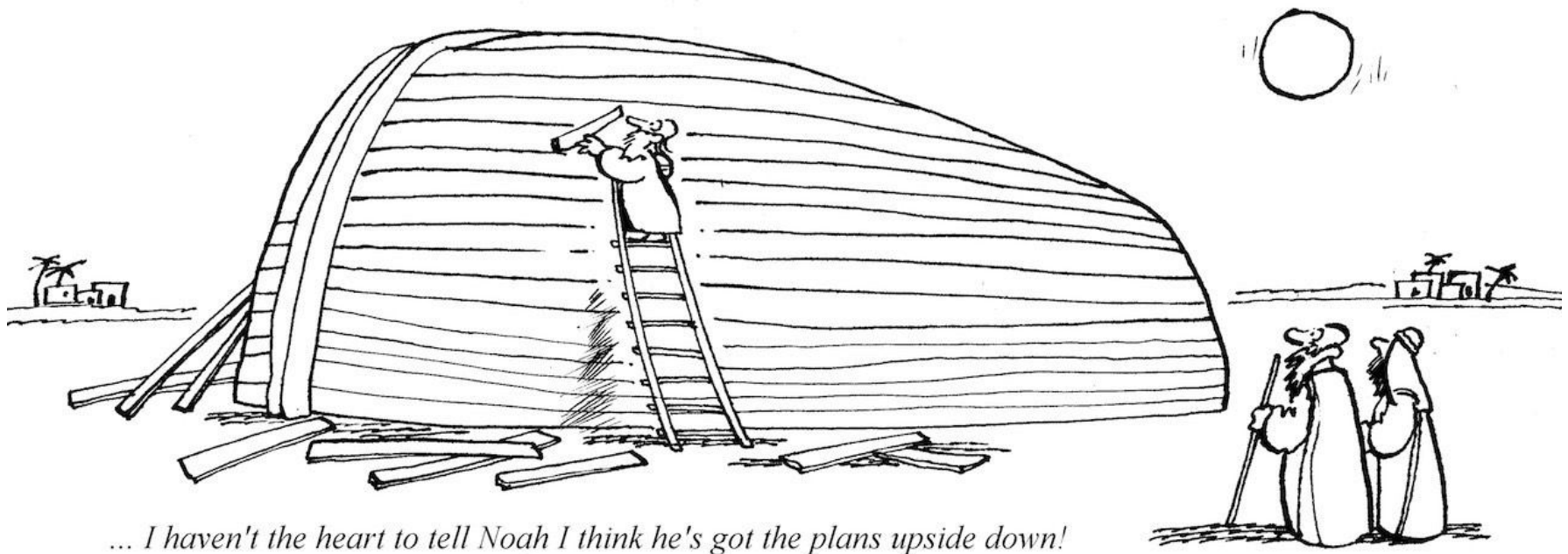
Jean and Alan
would like to thank you for sharing
your memories, support and love on the loss of our
very dear friend
Connie



Advanced Notice

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Communion Service (28 th March)	7.00pm
Good Friday Service (29th March)	10.30am
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service (31 st March)	7.00am Holcombe Emmanuel
Easter Sunday Service (31st March)	10.30am



Drop-In Cafe

Volunteers Urgently Required

The Drop-in Cafe is currently short of volunteers to help in the kitchen, washing up and distributing soup.

Help is urgently required from 11-1 when it is very busy.

If you are interested please see Susan for further details.

February Prayer Diary

Please take time each day to pray for the event or the person mentioned in the diary. If you are unsure what to pray or are unsure who the people are, then simply pray that God might bless them and keep them safe.



Thursday	1	For the work of Rammy Pantry
Friday	2	Diana
Saturday	3	Norma P
Sunday	4	Our Service today led by Susan Applegate
Monday	5	Christine S
Tuesday	6	Bill & Joan
Wednesday	7	Slimming World as they use our building
Thursday	8	For our Drop-In Cafe
Friday	9	Judith
Saturday	10	Brenda
Sunday	11	Our Service today led by Stephen Crook
Monday	12	For Messy Play as they use our building
Tuesday	13	Bill & Pauline
Wednesday	14	Little Stars
Thursday	15	Recorded Music Society as they use our building

Friday	16	Baby Ballet as they use our building
Saturday	17	For the Church Meeting being held tomorrow
Sunday	18	Our Service today led by Stephen Crook
Monday	19	Betty
Tuesday	20	Jo Jingles as they use our building
Wednesday	21	Audrey
Thursday	22	Rammy Pantry Clients
Friday	23	Alice
Saturday	24	For Street Pastors, Bury
Sunday	25	Our Service today led by Phil Jump
Monday	26	For those attending Pilates within our building
Tuesday	27	Julie
Wednesday	28	Pray for the street where you live
Thursday	29	For those who live in the Great Eaves Area



Christ Church Ramsbottom



Saturday Coffee Mornings for Charity
9.30am - 12.30pm

February-May 2024

Date	Charity	Amt Raised
February 3rd	Boaz Trust	
March 2nd	Red Nose Day	
April 13th	tbc	
May 4th	Christian Aid	



Sudoku

Sudoku is a number puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The object is to place the numbers 1-9 in the empty squares so that each row, column, and 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

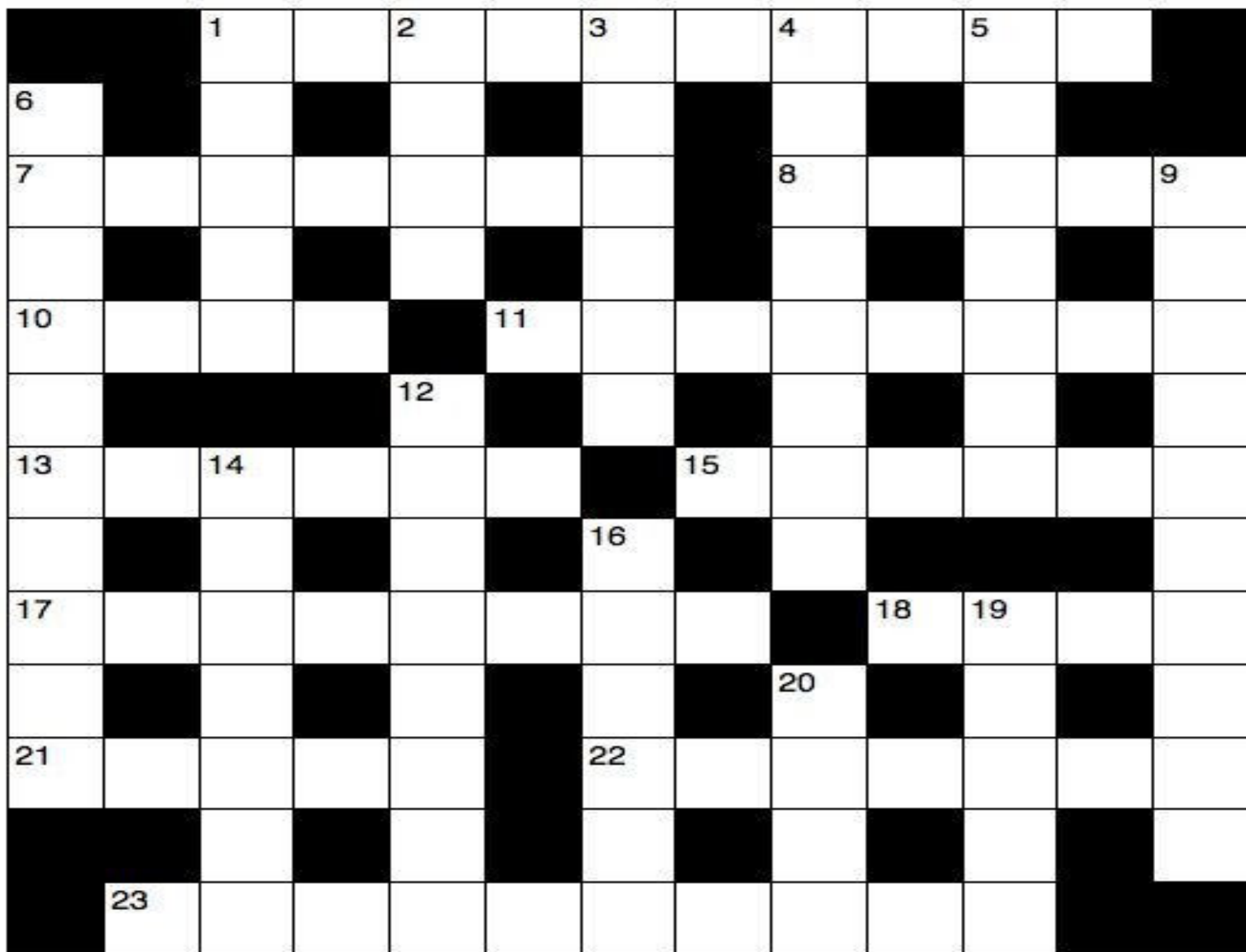
E
A
S
Y

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

M
E
D
I
U
M

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, – Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that
'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23-24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20;
Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)

- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two
epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12)
(10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the – of Israel to David and
his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices
in God my – ' (Luke 1:46-47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream,
identified and interpreted by Daniel
(Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the
gates of – will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18)
(5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two
years (Acts 28:16) (4)

WORDSEARCH

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

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good - unless we accept it!

Valentine
Rose
Romance
Love
Present

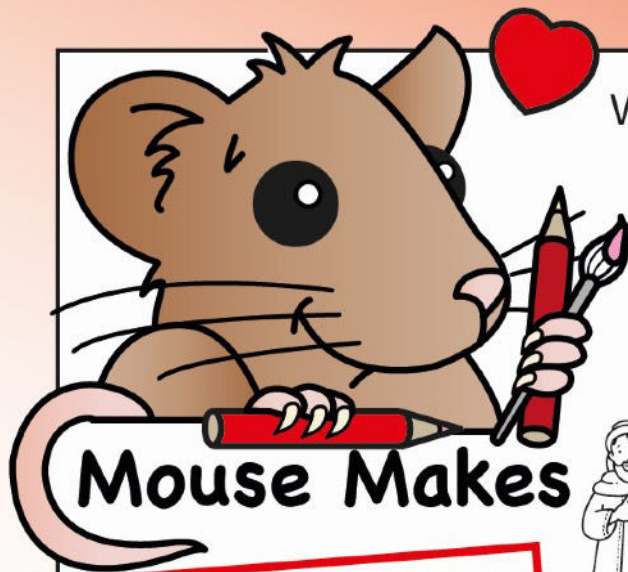
Restaurant
Hearts
Kiss
hug
girlfriend

boyfriend
fiancé
worship
repentance
angels

baby
temple
Mary
Candlemas
presentation

Mindfulness Colouring for all ages





Mouse Makes

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

and _____ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?

_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26

Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

_____ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSEBUEF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives!
They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

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

ABRAHAM
ADAM • AQUILA
BOAZ • ELKANAH
ELIZABETH
EVE • HANNAH
ISAAC • JACOB
JOSEPH • MARY
PRISCILLA
RACHEL
REBEKAH • RUTH
SARAH
ZECHARIAH

Puzzle Answers

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

Sudoku Easy

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

Sudoku Medium

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

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

February Rotas							
2024	Chairs	Opening up	Door	Closing	Vestry	Refreshments	Communion
4th Feb	Joan & Bill	Joan & Bill	Julie	Joan & Bill	Joan H	Joan & Bill	
11th Feb	Louise & John	Louise & John	John	Louise & John	Bill	Louise & John	
18th Feb	Valerie & Norman	Valerie & Norman	Tom	Valerie & Norman	Susan	Judith & Lesley	Joan & Bill
25th Feb	Susan & Joan H	Susan	Bill	Susan	Louise	Joan H & Julie	
3rd Mar	Diana & Steve	Diana & Steve	Joan R	Diana & Steve	Bill	Diana & Steve	

Thursday Drop in Café Rota							
2024	9-9.15 Set up 1	9.30 Set up 2	Baker x 2	Baker x 1	Helper with soup 11.45-1	12-1.30pm 2 x helpers to close	Soup maker
1st Feb	Susan / Julie		Judith	Judith		Susan	Louise
8th Feb	Susan / Julie		Louise	Marjorie		Susan	Judith
15th Feb	Susan / Julie		Joan R	Joan R		Susan	
22nd Feb	Susan / Julie		Lesley	Lesley		Susan	Joan H
29th Feb	Susan / Julie		Joan H	Joan H		Susan	

Little Stars Helpers Rota Jan-March 2024			
31/1/24	Joan H.	28/2/24	Marjorie
7/2/24	Bill & Joan	6/3/24	Joan H
14/2/24	Julie	13/3/24	Joan & Bill
21/2/24	N/A	20/3/24	Julie

Christ Church Officials			
Pastor:	Stephen Crook	minister@christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk	
		Tel: 07795432996	
Church Secretary:	Susan Applegate	secretary@christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk	
		Tel: 07814173027	
Church Treasurer:	John Leyland	treasurer@christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk	
		Tel: 01706 827253	
Church Telephone:		01706 821803	



**The Monday Mondays a cappella group
and Monkuleles (Ukelele group) will be
performing at:**

Christ Church Ramsbottom (Great Eaves Rd)

Saturday 23rd March 2:30pm

Tickets £5 on the door

All proceeds going to Bury hospice.

Reserve your tickets now (limited numbers)

Contact Joan Raw on 07923445427

theraws@talktalk.net Or

Amanda Drew

Facebook/Messenger