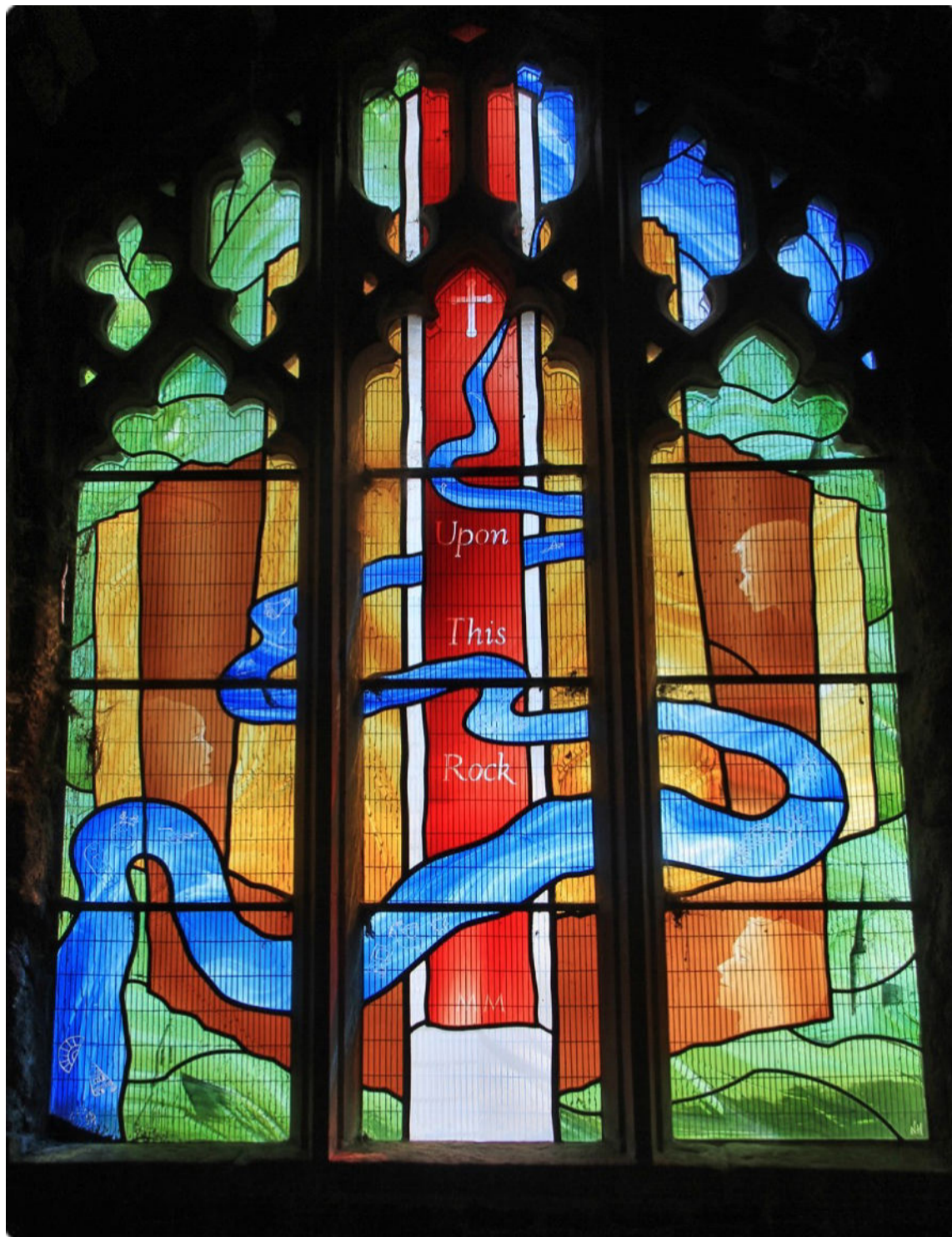


Christ Church Ramsbottom



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025

Church Services: Sundays 10.30am

2nd Feb	Cafe Worship	Susan Applegate
9th Feb		Rev Stephen Crook
16th Feb	Holy Communion	Rev Stephen Crook
23rd Feb		Rev Stephen Crook

Regular Weekly Church Activities

Tuesdays	Rammy Pantry	10am - 12pm
Tuesdays	Prayer Meeting (usually on Zoom)	7pm
Tuesdays	Explorers	5.45pm - 7pm
Wednesdays	Little Stars	9.30 - 11.30am
Thursdays	Drop-In Cafe Plus Soup & Roll from 12	10am - 12.30pm
Thursdays	Rammy Pantry	10am - 12pm

Monthly Dates & Events

11th Feb 7.15pm	Bible Study	@ Church
15th Feb 7.30pm	Comedy Night with Paul Kerensa	@ St Mary's Hawkshaw
16th Feb	Church Council (After the Service)	@ Church
27th Feb 7pm	Bible Study	@ Church



From our Minister Stephen Crook

Hi everyone and welcome to February's magazine as usual put together by Valerie.

February is the month of 'lurve' (imagine Barry White singing on of his romantic soul songs)

Of course, God is a God of love - the New Testament clearly defines love as one of God's main characteristics - especially when we think of Jesus' sacrifice. However, this doesn't mean that 'anything goes' OR that 'everything is acceptable'.

From a Christian perspective, Valentine's Day can be seen in various ways, depending on how it's celebrated and the focus of the individual or church community. Here are some ways we can view Valentine's day - there are some important words used in the original Biblical language.

Celebrating Love as God's Gift: Christians can view Valentine's Day as an opportunity to celebrate the love that God has given us, both romantic love and love in general. Scriptures like **1 John 4:7-8** ("Let us love one another, for love comes from God") highlight that love is central to Christian life. For couples, it's a chance to express love for one another, reflecting God's love in their relationship.

Selfless Love (Agape): While Valentine's Day is often associated with romantic love (eros), Christians may focus on agape - the unconditional love that Jesus showed to humanity. This kind of love is about giving without expecting anything in return, and many Christians use the day to focus on acts of service or showing kindness to others, particularly to those who are lonely or in need.

Avoiding Materialism and Commercialization: Some Christians might criticise the commercial aspects of Valentine's Day, where the focus shifts to material gifts and sending cards rather than the true meaning of love. They might encourage a more thoughtful approach to

expressing affection, perhaps through homemade gifts, heartfelt letters, or time spent together, rather than being driven by the consumer-driven aspects of the day.

Encouraging Strong Relationships: For Christians who are in romantic relationships and / or marriages, Valentine's Day might serve as a reminder to strengthen their bond with their partner or 'significant other'. **Ephesians 5:25** ("Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church") emphasizes sacrificial love, which can be an inspiring model for all couples on this day.

Single Christians: For single Christians, Valentine's Day can be an opportunity to reflect on God's love and faithfulness, regardless of their romantic status. It can be a day to cultivate love in other areas of life, such as friendships, family, and community. It's also a good time to reflect on **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**, where love is described as patient, kind, and selfless, values that can be lived out in all relationships, not just romantic ones.

Ultimately, a Christian perspective on Valentine's Day emphasizes love in its many forms - romantic, familial, and agape - and encourages believers to reflect on God's love while being mindful of the true meaning behind the celebration, rather than letting it become overly commercialised or self-centred.

BUT what if you're not a Christian? Don't worry, God's love is for you too - as much as it is for anyone else - you just need to accept God at His word and love Him back - He needs to be loved too, and likes us to tell Him so.

I hope February brings you much love - especially, and maybe for the first time, a clear understanding of just how much, In Christ Jesus, God loves you.

Revd Stephen

How is Christ Church Ramsbottom governed and who makes the decisions?

The Church Minister, currently Revd Stephen Crook, is appointed by the church to lead us both spiritually as well as with regard to everyday decision making. However, and despite the roll of the minister, the church is run primarily as a democracy through the 'members' of the church council - a group chaired by the minister.

This large group of council 'members' is in turn supported by a smaller group of men and women elected from within the church council, and who are known as 'Deacons' - the qualities of which are described in the Bible in [Timothy Chapter 3 verses 8-13](#)

Occasionally, deacons may be referred to as 'officers' in the case of the treasurer or secretary, or the 'trustees' when dealing with matters linked to our charitable status. They are all however, Deacons.

Who are the Church Council and how can you become a member?

As part of the church worshipping community - i.e. a regular attender at church services and maybe already helping in one of the activities of the church such as children's work or the Café etc, you may feel called to take on more responsibility for running the church and as such become a member of the church council.

Members of the church council currently need to be at least 18 years old (under review to consider younger members) and will have been baptised either here at Christ Church or in another church.

If not yet baptised, and are committed to your faith, baptism can be part of becoming a member of the church council.

Whether baptised yet or not, you will already have a Christian faith and have demonstrated, to a greater or lesser degree, that you are committed to following the teachings of Jesus as outlined in the Bible.

This can be within Christ Church or, if having previously worshipped elsewhere, within that church, and Membership can be transferred from one church to another.

How do I go about it?

If you feel called to become a 'member' of the church council, simply mention it to Stephen (the Minister) or Susan (church secretary) and we'll quickly get the ball rolling. The first part of which is an informal chat about your faith and your reasons for wanting to become a member of the council.

The process is relatively quick and straight forward although for those new to the church and to satisfy our 'safeguarding' criteria, it may take a little longer as references may be sought. You will also require two nominations who are already members of the church council.

The church council meets 4 times throughout the year to establish, ratify and confirm the day-to-day business of the church and perhaps more importantly to discuss where we believe God will lead us and guide us as a church. The church council members might also convene on other occasions to deal with other issues.

Who are the deacons?

The word deacon essentially means 'servant' and at Christ Church there can be up to 12 members elected to serve as deacons.

Deacons are chosen from within the membership of the church council and must be nominated by two others before they are elected as deacons.

As well as being spiritually qualified to serve the church, deacons may have particular skills, talents and experience with which to serve the church i.e. financial skills, organizational skills, buildings experience, communication skills and experience of working with children and families or other aspects of community etc.

The deacons save the members of the church council time by dealing with issues effecting the whole church. However, whilst the deacons can make decisions up to a certain point, major decisions effecting the church will always be presented to the church council for further thought and discussion prior to a decision being made. As for the church council, the deacons meetings are chaired by the minister of the church. As long as the faith and commitment criteria mentioned above can be demonstrated, it's possible for anyone to become a member of the church council and therefore a deacon too.

However, whether a person is content with being part of the greater church family and community, or a church council member, or indeed a deacon; all are of equal value to us here at Christ Church - the only difference is that some have accepted more responsibility than others.

Bible Study Refresh

Recent discussions amongst deacons has led to an agreement that the 'in church Bible study' will become once a fortnight starting

from February 11th. This would be on the 2nd week of the month on Tuesday and the 4th week of the Month on Thursday, thereby providing an alternative night for those who can't make Thursday.

Whilst Joan and Ian, with Joan and Bill, have taken responsibility for organising the study on Thursdays, if you are interested in leading the Bible study on Tuesdays please let Stephen know. It doesn't have to be the same person leading the study each week and materials can be provided.

With this being a relatively new initiative, beginning last September, there may be times when meetings can't go ahead, or other days are considered better.

The dates for February are:-

Tuesday February 11th - 7:15pm

Thursday February 27th - 7pm

Prayer for February 2025

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

Lord - as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops - help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DROP-IN Café NEEDS YOU

Our Thursday drop-in café has become very successful. It is a much needed facility in our community, as well as being a great outreach activity for our church. It is a place where we engage with people with varying needs, difficulties and backgrounds both Christians and non-Christians.

As our Café continues to grow we need your help. Please prayerfully consider if you can help, even if it is just once in a while.

On the foyer noticeboard we have a rota where you can sign up to help.

To run the cafe two helpers are required to setup, three to serve, two to lock up, and in winter, two to three people to serve soup.

Additionally the following are also necessary:

1. Cake providers - this can be bought cake or homemade as we need a minimum of 4 cakes a week.
2. From October to April we have been providing soup and a roll, so require two large pans of soup each week.
3. Could you help in the kitchen for an hour or so or all morning. Help is especially required at the end of the morning.
4. Go on a reserve list to cover holidays and illness for those who help every week. This is essential at School holiday times

If you are unable to help in the above ways please think about helping by: -

1. Supporting us financially to buy ingredients or cakes or towards the cost of heating.
2. Come to the café, if not every week then every now and again, and see what we do, you too can be part of the fellowship we share.
3. Pray for the café, the volunteers, and visitors especially those who don't know Christ and that God gives us the right words to say and the right time.
4. We have people who are lonely, bereaved or with lots of problems. It takes time to gently get alongside people, and getting them to trust us. Sometimes we just need to listen and support until the time is right or refer to other organisation for help. In all we do we want to show God's love through our actions. It is about building bridges and showing God's love. Offering prayer is something we do and we always begin our sessions in prayer.

As you can see there are lots of ways in supporting us.

Thank you to all those who already support this event, without you it would not be possible.

God Bless

Susan



What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Job

By Canon Paul Hardingham

'Why does God allow suffering?' This is a frequently asked question of Christians, because we believe in a God who is both good and powerful and it is explored in the book of Job. This book is part of the wisdom literature, along with Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Job was both wealthy and righteous, yet he experienced catastrophic suffering, losing all his wealth, children and health. This is portrayed as a result of Satan's challenge to God, testing whether Job's devotion to God was dependent on his circumstances or not.

The main body of the book (3:1-42:6) consists of dialogues between Job, his friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) and God. Job and his friends assume that God is almighty and just, and that no human being is wholly innocent. In the three cycles of speeches they wrestle with the reasons for Job's suffering, remembering his morally upright character.

Finally, all are silenced by God, as He speaks Himself (chapters 38-42). He points out that Job knows very little about the universe when he reflects on God's power. Job confesses his lack of understanding and weakness, but then goes on to confess his confidence and trust in God. This puts suffering in a right perspective. Job is not condemned, and the book ends with the restoration of his family and possessions.

The importance of this book is that it realistically addresses the painful questions of life, without offering simplistic answers. It focuses on *how* we should respond to

suffering, rather than on *why* God allows suffering: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.' (1:21)



God & Job

The new trend of clapping in church

Some people are beginning to clap in church, if they are pleased with something.

For tired vicars and timid curates, having a sermon greeted with warm clapping might be an encouragement, if also a complete surprise.

But the applauding of sermons, or applause at the end of services, also reveals a dark side: churchgoing has now declined to such a degree in the UK, that even the knowledge of 'how to behave' in church is fading.

That leaves some people unaware that in the UK, aside from a few 'mega churches' where American style singing, dancing and clapping is the norm, applause is not something we 'do' in church.

As one vicar puts it: "I think it has to do with cultural expectations. People are less and less familiar with acts of worship directed to God. Instead, they have a sense of a performance."

Prayers of the Bible: Praying in your Discouragements

by the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, formerly of the Nazarene Theological College, Manchester

'Moses said to the Lord, "...I am not able to carry all this people alone, the burden is too heavy for me..." Numbers 11:10-15.

Moses prayed this prayer in a day of dark depression and discouragement. The opening verses of the chapter relate how divine punishment fell on the people of Israel because they complained about almost everything. Moses prayed and the punishment stopped but not the people's complaints. They wanted meat to eat.

For years they had been sustained by manna from heaven, but now they longed for the fish, cucumbers and melons they had eaten in Egypt (vv.5,6). They forget how the Lord had delivered them from Pharaoh's bondage. Now they preferred Egyptian food, and the slavery that went with it, to the goodness of the Lord and His provision for them.

Moses was beside himself with despair. Would these ungrateful people never stop complaining? Then the Lord's anger threatened the people again (v.10). Moses was caught in the middle. On one side of him the people complained, and on the other side God's wrath was about to fall. Moses couldn't go on.

His frustration broke out in petulant questions to the Lord. 'Why are you dealing so severely with me?' 'Why do you lay this burden on me?' 'Did I conceive these people?' 'Why am I a nursing mother to them?' 'Am I responsible for getting them to Egypt?' 'How can I provide meat for so

many?' 'Lord, this burden is too great for me.' 'I'd rather die now than go on like this' (see vv.11-15).

Moses was depressed, irritable and resentful. He poured it all out before the Lord. It was a prayer born of frustration and anger. He was angry with his ungrateful congregation, and he was angry with God. Why did the Lord leave it all to him? After all, it was God's plan to bring the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. Moses had only gone along with it because God commanded him. But now it was all too much. Worn out with listening to the people's whining and not sure of what God would do next, Moses had had enough. He blamed the Lord for giving him a burden he couldn't carry, and he wanted to die.

But God answered Moses graciously! He understood the frustration, the petulance, the lack of faith and the rebellious spirit that blamed God for it all. He provided Moses with seventy elders who eased the burden of leadership (vv.16, 17). He sent an east wind that brought quails into the camp and provided meat for them (vv.31, 32). In grace and mercy God 'overlooked' the faults of Moses and sent him help and refreshment.

In our deepest disappointments, God understands. In our frustrations, God is merciful. When we lash out at circumstances and even at God Himself, He does not answer in kind. In our deepest discouragement, His love and grace and understanding are with us still.





Ramsbottom Pantry Donations and fundraising December 2025

At our Gift Service at the beginning of December we raised £515 for the Pantry as our part in providing Gift Tokens to go into the Christmas Boxes being prepared for those who require the Pantry's help.

Whilst the Pantry is a part of Christ Church, it is a community resource, and as such many organisations and people raise and donate funds to ensure the Pantry is enabled to continue supporting those in need throughout our community.

During December 2025 these are the many donations made, which don't always get acknowledged to the wider Church organisation, although some do go onto the new Ramsbottom Pantry Facebook page such as:-

Ladybird Nursery raised £665 from a family fun day

Chris Hobson's grandchildren raised £852 from sponsored runs throughout December. Stuart Hobson is the president of Ramsbottom Rotary and Chris Hobson volunteers at the Pantry.

Other donations came from:-

Rosebridge donated £1,500

Cormar Carpets donated £1,000

Donations via Gofundme and the Crowdfunder raised £2,000

Holcombe Brook Methodist Church hold monthly coffee mornings and donated £3,500 in 2024, £970 in December covering 3 months.

Ramsbottom Rotary are also regular donators to the Pantry

The Pantry also raised £436 in November from helping at the Sunday Car Boots Sales.

This fundraising push in December provides a healthy surplus which will be used throughout the year, as December is the main month for donations.

Christmas Services donations

Donations were taken for Bury Hospice after the Christmas Carol Service - £100 was raised.

The Donations taken on Christmas Day were taken for Action for Children - £62.50 has been sent.

Thank you all for your generosity over December.

Gambia - Musa's Story

envisage how Musa can be helped.

Musa is thirteen and has had a problem with his eyes for nine years culminating in ulcerated corneas in both eyes. He had an operation on his right eye which has saved some vision but he has lost all sight in his left eye.

The Doctor at the hospital has told us that he may benefit from a cornea transplant but that the procedure is not available locally. Although it is not a long operation, the recovery can take a year and also a donor would be required.

David has contacted Mercy Ships and hospitals in the UK and Turkey but these requirements make it very difficult to



Musa is a very bright boy, very articulate and desperately wants to continue his education but he can't see past the end of his nose.

We are continuing to research any ways we can help Musa, trusting that our God, who can make the impossible possible, will show us the way. Please keep Musa and his family in your prayers.

Carol & David



16th Feb John

To join the birthday scheme fill in the application form on the Birthday Scheme leaflet found on the notice board and leave in the office or talk to Mary.

Those notices which didn't come out quite right...

Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness.

Spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.

In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

This coming Sunday our special service will be gin at 11:00am.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

Jean will be leading a weight-management series Wednesday nights. She's used the programme herself and has been growing like crazy!

Volunteers are needed to spit up food for distribution.

This evening at 7:00pm there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

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.

Saturday	1	Harry
Sunday	2	Our Service today led by Susan Applegate
Monday	3	For those attending Pilates
Tuesday	4	For Explorers
Wednesday	5	For Little Stars
Thursday	6	The Recorded Music Society as they use our building
Friday	7	Diana
Saturday	8	For those attending Baby Ballet
Sunday	9	Our Service today led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	10	Christine S.
Tuesday	11	For the work of Rammy Pantry
Wednesday	12	For those attending the Bereavement Support Group
Thursday	13	For our Drop-In Cafe
Friday	14	Norma P.

Saturday	15	Bill & Joan
Sunday	16	Our Service today led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	17	For those attending Messy Play
Tuesday	18	For those attending Jo Jingles
Wednesday	19	For those attending Slimming World
Thursday	20	For those who are struggling and waiting for life to change
Friday	21	Judith
Saturday	22	For Street Pastors, Bury
Sunday	23	Our Services today led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	24	Claire
Tuesday	25	Rammy Pantry Clients
Wednesday	26	For those who live in the Great Eaves Area
Thursday	27	Betty
Friday	28	Audrey



God in the Arts

'My First Sermon' by John Everett Millais

For 2025, the Revd Michael Burgess considers the sacred in Art.

There is a story of two men talking about their new vicar. One says to the other, "This new one's not a patch on the old vicar. With the old one preaching I was asleep in five minutes. With the new one it takes all of ten." Some churches in times past employed 'sluggard-walkers' who had long rods and walked down the aisles, ready to wake up the faithful if they had nodded off during the sermon.

Sluggard-walkers are not needed for this month's painting, My First Sermon by John Everett Millais. It hangs in the Guildhall Art Gallery in London, which houses the art collection of our capital city. The Gallery is built on the site of an amphitheatre and was only completed in 1999, having replaced a building that was destroyed in the blitz of 1941. It has over 4000 works, many of them from the Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite period. Among them is this painting by Millais which depicts Effie, his 5-year-old daughter sitting in Kingston Church. She is dressed properly and sensibly for the occasion with feathered hat, muff and a cloak of vivid red. Her mother's prayer book and gloves are by her side. Effie is listening with great concentration.

When the painting was exhibited in 1863, it was a great success. In the following year Millais produced My Second Sermon - a very different occasion, for Effie has now fallen asleep with her hat by her side. Millais was often criticised for his sentimental portraits of children as in Cherry Ripe and Bubbles.



John Everett Millais, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

But in 1864 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Longley, praised this second painting for reminding us of 'the evil of lengthy sermons and drowsy discourses.'

As we look at Effie alert one Sunday, asleep the next, we can smile. But we might also ask how we respond to the Word that comes to us through the medium of words in the weekly sermon. The preacher has the daunting task of using this everyday coinage of words to draw us into that mysterious, life-giving realm of the Word, Jesus. The words spoken must make a straight path for the Lord to reach each human heart.

The two paintings of Millais depict the reality and fragility of this endeavour. Sometimes our attention is engaged; at others, drowsiness closes our eyes and even our hearts to the good news of salvation. On occasions the sermon sows seeds, which can bear fruit. At other times, all kinds of factors mitigate against the sermon's success. Let us pray that as listener or as preacher, we may be aware of the dynamic power of the Word, which, as Karl Rahner wrote, calls us 'out of the little house of our homely, close-hugged truths into the strangeness of the mystery of God that is our real home.'

SAT 22ND MARCH 2025

Baptist Women in NWBA
invite you to

Draw Closer

**10am-1pm (optional lunch til 2pm)
at Lymm Baptist Church
(refreshments from 9.30am)**

join us at a gathering for
women to draw closer to God
and each other

A Free Event
donations welcome
Book via [Eventbrite](#)

or contact:
admin@nwba.org.uk
07821 645265



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.

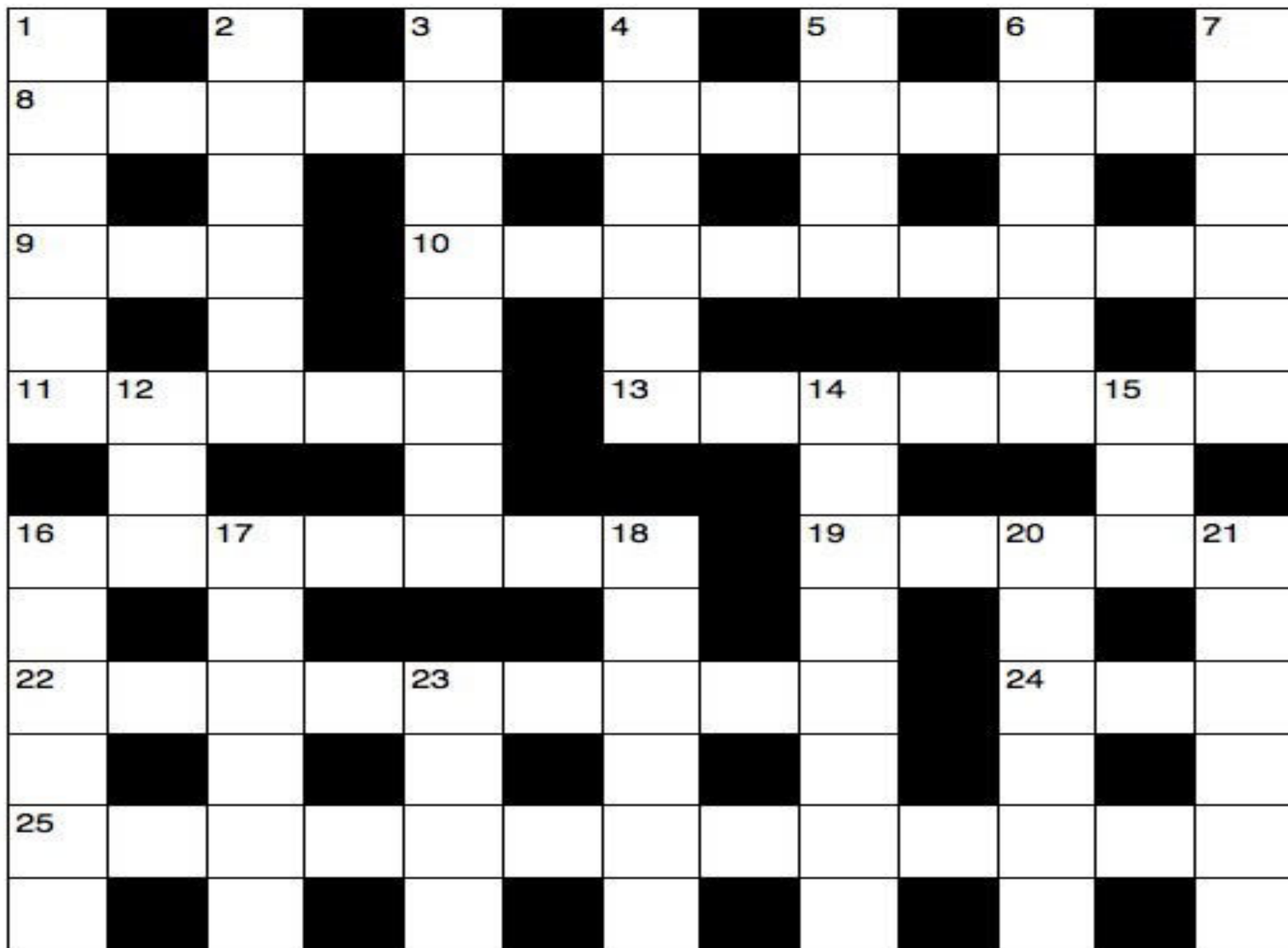
E
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Y

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the – heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to – your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in
 14 Down: 'On – – let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but – him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' – salt to – your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always – to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to – (Genesis 8:5) (6)
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

WORDSEARCH



February

February opens with Candlemas - the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between men and women: Valentine cards and wedding fayres abound. 'Love' as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, Education Sunday and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

naming
Christ
Candlemas
Simeon
Anna

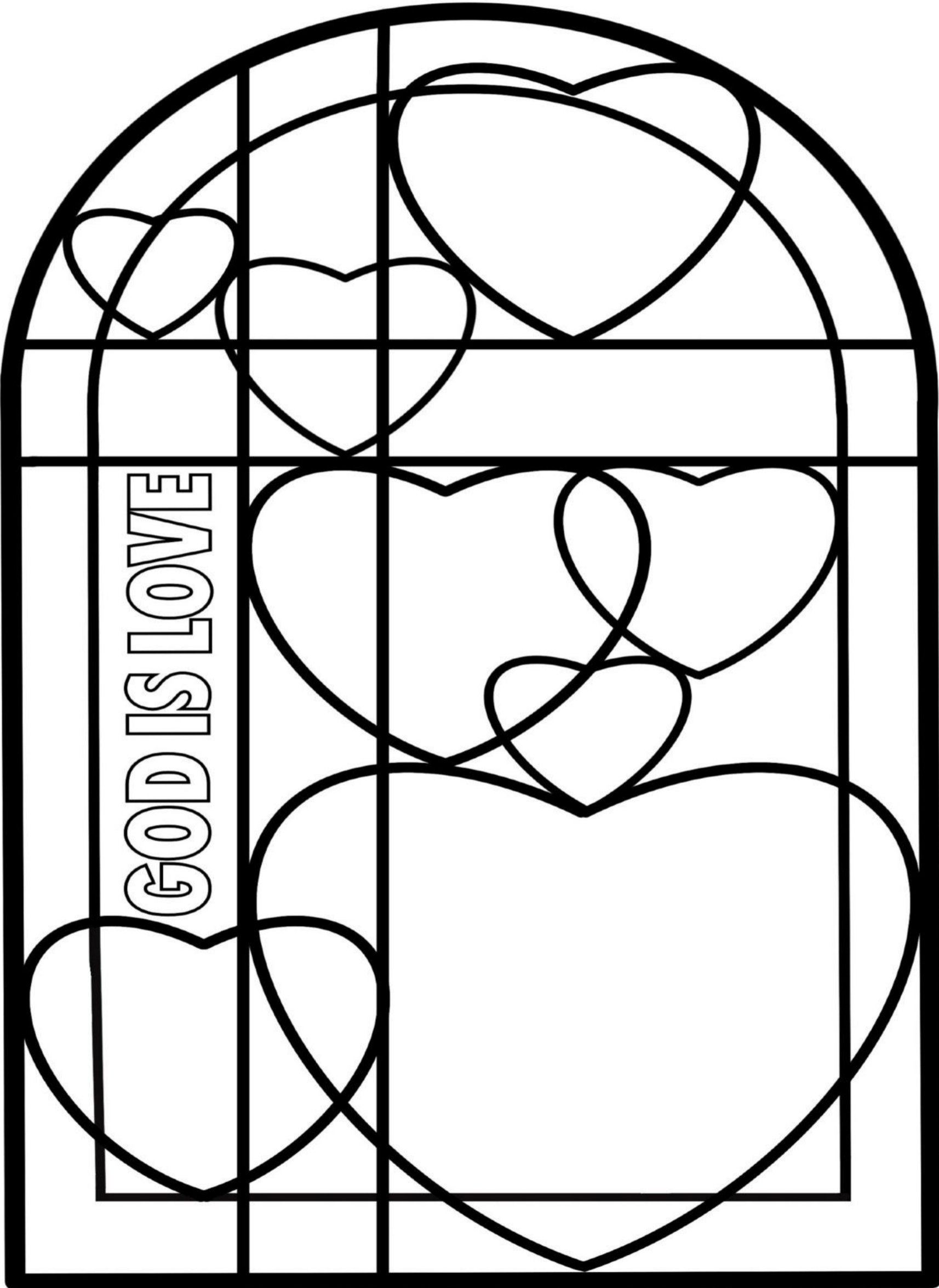
temple
love
Valentine
romance
Matthias

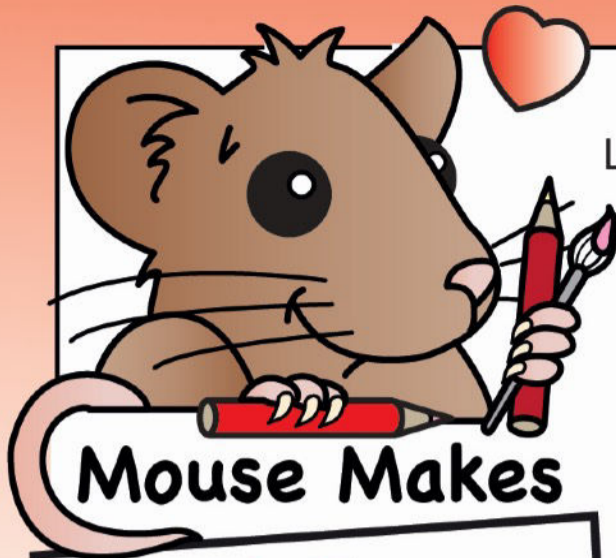
Fairtrade
Fortnight
coffee
bananas
chocolate

justice
poverty
nest box
marriage
wedding

Holocaust
leprosy
education
sunday

Mindfulness Colouring for all ages





Mouse Makes

"Love is

_____.
love is _____.
 It does not, _____
 it does not _____
 it is not _____.
 it does not _____

_____ others, it is not self -

_____ it is not easily

_____ it keeps no record of

Love delights in

_____ it always

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____;

His _____ never come to an end; they are new every _____.

Lamentations 3:20-23



I pray... you will understand... the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how _____ and how _____ and how _____ that **love** is.

Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.

whoever _____ in **love** _____ in God, and God _____ in them.

1 John 4:16



Give _____ to the Lord, for He is

_____ his steadfast **love** endures

Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES GOD LOVE ME?
God sent me a saviour:
 He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him.
1 John 4:9

God gave me His spirit:
 He has given you the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His **love**.
Romans 5:5

God called me His child:
 See what great **love** the Father has for us that He would call us His children.
1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:

LOVE the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul** and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

LOVE your neighbour the same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

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

GOD • **LOVE**
 PATIENT • KIND
 GRACIOUS • PEACE
 JUST • TRUTHFUL
 TRUSTING • LOYAL
 HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERES
 ENDURES
 HUMBLE
 SELFLESS
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS

Puzzle Answers

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

Sudoku Easy

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

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

Sudoku Medium

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

February Rotas

Sundays

2025	Chairs	Opening up	Door	Closing	Vestry	Refreshments	Communion
2nd Feb	Valerie & Norman	Valerie & Norman	Tom	Valerie & Norman	Bill	Louise, Lesley, Julie	
9th Feb	Louise & John	Louise & John	Bill	Louise & John	Joan R.	Julie & Judith	
16th Feb	Joan & Bill	Joan & Bill	Ian	Joan & Bill	Bill	Joan & Bill	Joan H. & Judith
23rd Feb	Diana & Steve	Diana & Steve	Julie	Diana & Steve	Susan	Diana & Steve	

Thursday Drop in Café

2025	9am	9am	Baking	Soup	Closing	Closing
6th Feb	Susan	Julie / Carol K.		Susan	Stephen	Susan
13th Feb	Susan	Julie / Carol K.			Stephen	Susan
20th Feb	Susan	Julie			Stephen	Susan
27th Feb	Susan	Julie / Carol K.	Judith		Stephen	Susan



Little Stars

Date	Kitchen
5th Feb	Marjorie
12th Feb	Joan & Bill
26th Feb	Lesley

Junior Church

9th Feb	Louise	Joan H.
16th Feb	Louise	Julie
23rd Feb	Diana	Judith C.

#doyouknowhim?

St. Mary's Hawkshaw
BL8 4JN

Sat. 15 February
doors open at 7pm
for 7.30 start

BYOB... nibbles
provided!

Tickets coming soon!
£10 (students £7)

12A

Comedy Night with Paul Kerensa

(and a bit of Dom Woodward!)



writes for
'Miranda' with
Miranda Hart
and
'Not Going Out'
with
Lee Mack

"Top comic, top writer, top bloke!" – LEE MACK

"If I was a gag-thief, I'd be shinning up Paul Kerensa's drainpipe." – MILTON JONES



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