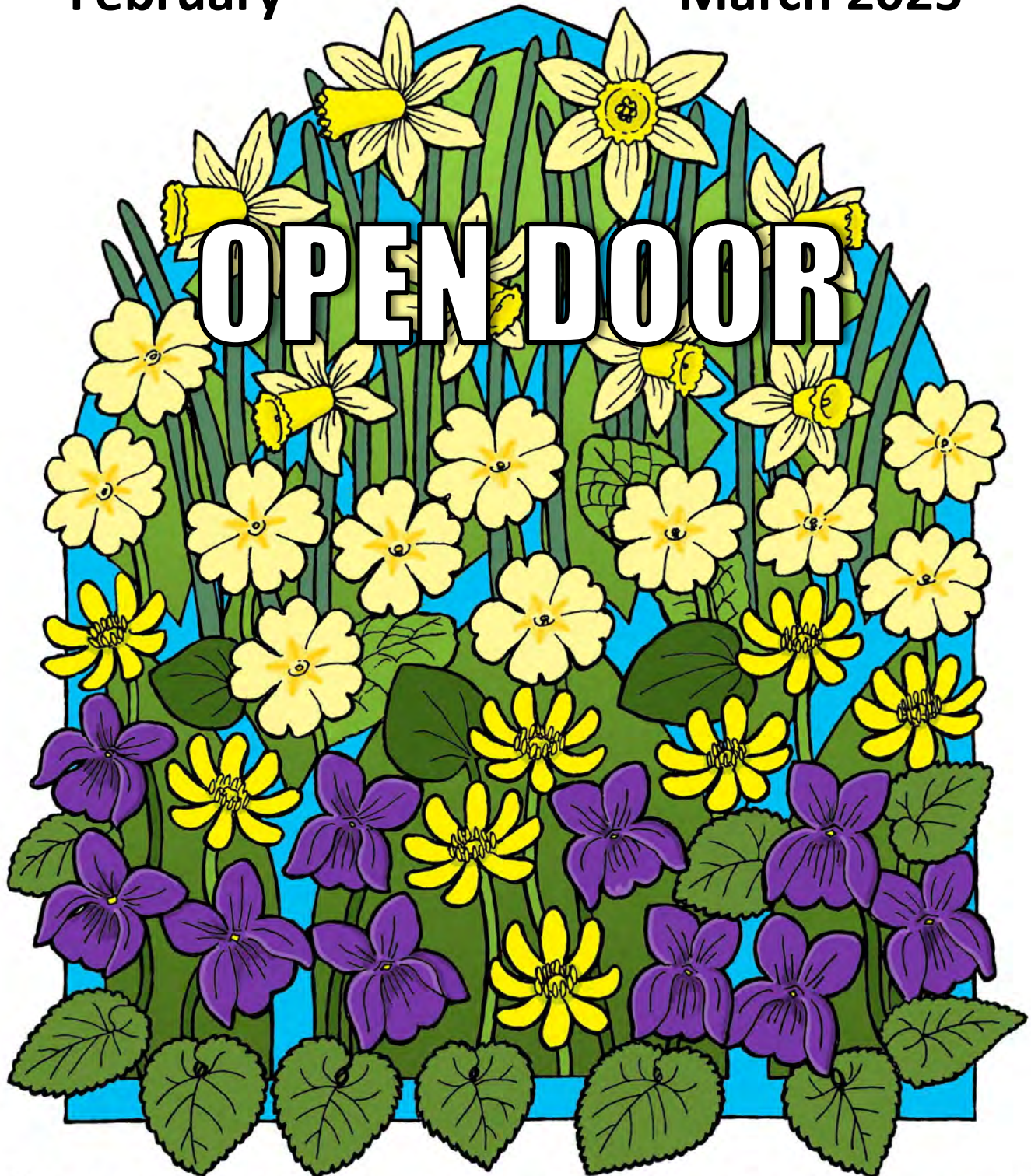


February

March 2025



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come!

Song of
Songs 2:12



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: April/May 2025
Sunday 9th March 2025.

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

FROM THE TEAM RECTOR

Happy new year to you if I haven't seen you yet in person this year! I am not sure how far into the year I am allowed to keep saying that to everyone. Maybe I'll stop when people start giving me strange looks.

We are nearing the end of our initial consultation on the future of ministry in the central parishes of the Witham Deanery. By the next issue, I should be able to tell you what the plan is going forward. We have had some very positive meetings so far and it looks as if our parishes will become part of a larger team ministry with more churches, but also more stipendiary clergy.



It was lovely to see so many people in our churches over Christmas. All of our churches are run by small teams of volunteers and we always need more people not just to come to services, but to help with practical tasks too. If you came at Christmas, don't leave it another year before you come again. We'd love to see you at any of our services or coffee mornings and we'd love to talk to you if you'd like to see if there is anything you could do to help keep our beautiful churches open.

The days are beginning to draw out just a little and the first signs of spring will soon be here. Come and join us as we celebrate Candlemas (Sunday 2 February 9.30 am at St Luke's and 4 pm at Layer Marney). Details of all our services can be found at www.thurstablewinstreechurches.org. Services at Easthorpe resume in March and at Great Braxted at Easter. The next service at Layer Breton is on Ash Wednesday, 5 March at 8 pm.

Anne-Marie Renshaw

Electoral Roll

Being on the Church electoral roll enables you to be able to vote at the Annual Church Meetings and stand for the PCC. Each year the roll is revised as necessary to take account of new people joining and others who sadly pass away or move house.

Every 6 years there has to be a completely new list prepared, which means everyone must reapply for inclusion. This year, 2025, is one of those years.

Look out for details in March and April when the statutory notices are put up. Details will be given on the news sheet as well as in services. Make sure that you complete the required form to ensure you are on the new electoral roll.



THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK

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archbishopofyork.org

6 January 2025,
Feast of the Epiphany

Dear Friends in Christ,

Mindful of the ongoing challenges facing the Church of England, I write to you, the clergy, lay ministers and people of the Church of England on this Feast of the Epiphany, trusting that with God's guidance, we can look to the future with great hopefulness in Christ. The Magi came to the Christ child and their lives were re-directed. Please join me in praying for the renewal of our church as we come again to Christ to seek God's way for God's church.

First, I want to express my deep gratitude for your faithfulness. The unstinting witness and service of parish churches, chaplaincies and other Christian communities brings hope and light, embodying the message of the Gospel, a message of peace and of new beginnings that is needed so urgently in our world as well as our church.

The events of recent weeks, particularly the publication of the Makin Review, have sometimes felt as though we have been separated from the light and hope of Christ. Reading reports of abuse, cover-ups, and institutional failure, we are confronted with a darkness that has harmed so many. To those who have been hurt, I offer my deepest apologies.

These painful reports serve as a stark reminder that victims and survivors are asking for – and deserve – more than words of lament. They call us to action.

Significant progress has been made. Every week, thousands of parish safeguarding officers faithfully attend to their duties in churches across England. They are supported by over 100 professionally qualified safeguarding staff working at both regional and national levels. More than 20,000 clergy, lay ministers, and church officers now undergo safeguarding training as part of their roles. Alongside them, thousands of volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults complete rigorous vetting through the Disclosure and Barring Service. This essential safeguarding work is so important, and I am profoundly grateful for the dedication and commitment of all involved.

However, there is still more to do in order for us to become a safer and more accountable church, and for our processes to be trusted. Whether it is my decisions that are called into question or anyone's within the church, our safeguarding practices must be subject to independent oversight and scrutiny.

Consequently, the House of Bishops, the Archbishops' Council and the other relevant National Church Institutions are committed to leading this change and are working with the lead bishop for safeguarding and others on several key initiatives, including:

- Bringing forward new proposals on independent safeguarding to the General Synod in February. This would include models for independent oversight, scrutiny, audit, and complaints, as well as for day-to-day operational safeguarding.
- Seeking final approval in February for new clergy conduct measures that will strengthen the Church's disciplinary provisions.
- Ensuring the Church's National Safeguarding Team continues its work alongside Safe Spaces to provide support for anyone wishing to raise safeguarding concerns, while also managing the process for addressing issues raised in recent reports.
- Reviewing the recommendations of recent reviews through the National Safeguarding Steering Group and implementing them with guidance from the independently chaired National Safeguarding Panel.
- Finalising the provisions of the forthcoming Redress Scheme so as to express in tangible ways the Church's heartfelt sorrow and shame for the abuse survivors have suffered.

I want to reach out to all people of goodwill, and especially those who have been consistently and courageously advocating for change in the Church of England and invite support for these proposals.

There are other things to consider this year. We must attend to issues around clergy wellbeing and do all that we can to increase the stipend level. It may also be the time to look again at clergy terms of service to increase accountability (including that of bishops) and possibly ask the question as to whether clergy should become employees.

Moreover, as we remember Archbishop Justin's ministry and his decision to step down as an acknowledgement of the institutional and collective failings of the Church he served so steadfastly, we need to reflect deeply on what we expect from an Archbishop of Canterbury. It is at least four jobs wrapped into one. Spiritual leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Spiritual Head of the Church of England. Primate of the Province of Canterbury. Diocesan Bishop.

We also face decisions about Living in Love and Faith (LLF). I believe we should focus again on the things we have in common, whatever our theological conviction on these issues. In this respect, I am convinced we are united in our desire to ensure that all our churches are places of welcome for everyone regardless of difference, but we also live with profound disagreement about how that welcome should be expressed towards same sex-couples.

Prayers of Love and Faith have become one option. They are now commended for use in existing services. Many same-sex couples in faithful, stable relationships have benefited from this, something I welcome.

Later this year, we will consider introducing bespoke services. With this must go provision for those who cannot support these developments. We must, therefore, properly honour the conscience and theological conviction of clergy, lay ministers and churches who can't use the services and then develop our practice of delegated episcopal ministry for these ministers and communities. In this way we will have that symmetry of provision I have always believed necessary. But since the Makin Review itself warns how tribalism can endanger accountability and make oversight more difficult, we must not do this in a way that further breaks the Body of Christ.

Working closely with Sarah, the Bishop of London, in her role as Dean of the Province of Canterbury, for most of the next year it falls to me to help guide the Church of England through these challenging times. I am hugely grateful for the affirmation and support I have received, though I know and accept that some people have concerns. But aware of my own needs and shortcomings I pledge myself to learn, and I pledge myself to do what I can to steer through the change we need on these important issues and to hold myself accountable, both to the processes we have at the moment and to the new ones we will introduce. I invite the clergy and people of the Church of England to do the same and in your parish and worshipping community to pray for the stability, good governance, and renewal of our Church. I will then look forward to working closely with whomever the Spirit calls to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

Alongside this, I will continue the work I have been called to in the North of England, particularly getting on the road to teach about the way of discipleship Jesus offers us in the prayer he taught us. The Lord's Prayer, the prayer of Jesus, is the prayer that takes us right to the heart of God. It teaches us how to live, as well as how to pray. At the moment, we need this more than ever.

Such a renewal of prayer, a new dependence upon God and a new focus on discipleship, living out our Christian vocation each day, will, I believe, help us to become a simpler, humbler and bolder church – and by 'church' I mean here both the universal Church, the bride of Christ and the community of the redeemed, and the thousands of local parishes, chaplaincies and other expressions of Christian community that are the bedrock and lifeblood of the Church of England.

Finally, in this Epiphany-tide, I am reminded that in Christ God comes to us in the most vulnerable thing we can imagine: a tiny, newborn child. Let us learn from this and ensure that we are putting the needs of the vulnerable first. Let us commit ourselves to becoming a Church that looks and sounds like Jesus: penitent, kind, and in tune with the will and purposes of God, the safer and more accountable Church I believe we are called to be.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature consisting of a cross symbol followed by a stylized, cursive name that appears to be 'Stephen'.

Left out in the cold

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services each week, stopped going.

After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The minister found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the minister took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead and dark.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The two men sat on in reflective silence.

A little while later, just before the minister was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the minister reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."



Diary Dates for 2025

FRIENDS OF ST LUKE'S

Events to be held in St Luke's Church Hall



1st February 7.30 pm

Quiz Night on behalf of TYPO

15th February 7.30 pm

Valentine's 80's Night with DJ Mike Boot

1st March 5pm

Pancakes & Puddings Hosted by Rev. Anne-Marie Renshaw

15th March 7.30 pm

Quiz Night hosted by Steve Scruton from BBC Essex Radio

26th April 7.30 pm

Jazz @ St Luke's featuring The Andy Brush Quintet

10th May 7.30 pm

80th Anniversary VE Day Singalong hosted by Tom Carradine

13th September 7.30 pm

Barn Dance hosted by John Dorsett

11th October 7.30 pm

Quiz Night hosted by Friends of St Luke's

22nd November 7.30 pm

90's & Christmas Music Night

Every 4th Friday throughout 2025 (2pm to 4pm)

Games Afternoons

***For further information on any of the above events*
please contact foslbookings@gmail.com**

The world of P G Wodehouse

Fifty years ago, on 14th February 1975, P G Wodehouse died. The well-loved British-born comic novelist, short story writer, lyricist and playwright who lived his later life in Long Island, USA is best known as the creator of Jeeves.

He was always a prolific writer, publishing more than 90 books, 450 plays, 200 short stories and much else between 1902 and 1974. He had an unusual first few years, being brought up by relative strangers in England while his parents lived in Hong Kong. He later went to Dulwich College, with which he formed a close attachment.

Wodehouse's genius was primarily in his writing; in person he was described as "dull," and was certainly very shy. Baptised an Anglican, he had an agnostic outlook: Evelyn Waugh once said that Christianity didn't really apply in his work because he – or his characters – had never left the Garden of Eden. He wrote sympathetically about "pious but fallible" curates, vicars and bishops, and his work revealed an unexpectedly deep knowledge of Scripture.

Born in Guildford, he moved to France for tax reasons in 1934 and was later taken prisoner by the advancing Germans in 1940. After his eventual release he made the naïve mistake of making five broadcasts on German radio to the USA, which had not yet entered the war. The broadcasts were humorous and apolitical, but they provoked some anger in Britain, to which he never returned.

Wodehouse took US citizenship in 1955, while retaining his British one. He had always loved America, and his biographers suggested that this "exile" may have benefited his writing, helping him to go on describing an idealised England, rather than the harsher reality of the post-war years.

He died in Southampton, Long Island, New York, a month after he was made a Knight in the Order of the British Empire (KBE).

Parish Pump

Boys' interest in reading plummets

Boys are not reading. In fact, their interest in book has just plummeted to the lowest level on record. This year only 20 per cent of boys aged 8 to 18 said they enjoy reading in their free time, compared to 28 per cent in 2023.

A study by the National Literary Trust has found that this steep decline in boys' literacy has lowered the overall childhood reading level to its lowest point since the charity began its annual survey about 20 years ago.

It means that two-thirds of all children now prioritise other hobbies, sparking fears over a "crisis" in childhood reading.

Parish Pump

How Councils avoid pothole compensation claims

Are there potholes on the roads near your home?

If you don't report them to the Council, then it can use 'not knowing' as an excuse for not having to pay compensation to drivers whose vehicles are damaged.

And increasingly, Councils are doing just that. Recent RAC research has found that local authorities used the excuse to reject seven out of every 10 compensation claims in 2023.

This has prompted the RAC to urge drivers to report every pothole that they see, "either via the RAC's website or using the free Stan app which collects data on the state of UK roads," said Simon Williams, the motoring organisation's head of policy.

What is a pothole? A hole that must be at least 40mm deep, about the height of two 20p coins. They most commonly cause punctured tyres, damaged suspension and damaged tracking, according to Confused.com.

Potholes existed in biblical times, where they were also seen as a nuisance. Even St Luke's vision of a blessed future included roads where: "Every valley shall be filled in... the crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. (Lk 3:5)

Roger Hoare

Roger sadly died on 19 December. A service of Thanksgiving will take place at St Luke's on Thursday 6th February, 2025, at 3.00 p.m.

Roger and Daphne moved to Tiptree from Abridge in 2003 and very quickly settled in and took a very active part in the life of St Luke's. Roger became a valued member of the ministry team, firstly during Martin Fletcher's incumbency, the subsequent interregnum and latterly, Anne-Marie's incumbency.

Roger's ministry was served in the following:

Assistant Curate of Emmanuel Church, Stoughton (1966-70); Chesham (1970-73);

Vicar of St Bartholomew's, Bath (1973-83);

Great Faringdon with Little Coxwell (1983-89);

North-East London Deputation Appeals Organiser for the Children's Society (1989-93);

Priest-in-Charge of Lambourne with Abridge and Stapleford Abbots (1993-2003);

Chelmsford Diocesan Industrial Chaplain (1993-2003);



Christmas and Easter congregations swell as C of E sees third year of growth

Attendance at Christmas services leapt by 20 per cent in 2023, and the number of worshippers at Easter was up 8.6 per cent, as Church of England congregations experienced a third year of growth, the latest statistics show.

The number of regular worshippers edged above a million in 2023 for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the Statistics for Mission 2023 report.

Overall attendance remains below 2019 levels, but the report shows numbers recovering towards the pre-pandemic trend.

Overall weekly attendance at Church of England churches rose to 693,000 in 2023, from 663,000 in 2022, an increase of 4.5 per cent. Meanwhile the number of children attending weekly increased from 90,000 in 2022 to 95,000 (up 4.9 per cent in a year).

The Church of England's overall 'worshipping community' rose to 1,007,000 in 2023, from 982,000 the previous year. Just under two million people (1,961,000) attended services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in 2023, up from 1,636,000 in 2022.

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 Spicke 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



FoSL



The Friends of St Luke's (FoSL) have recently taken on a new project to fund raise for a new canopy roof for the hall. Our funds were given a boost in December by receiving two generous donations.

The first one was from Maldon Orchestra whom we hosted in the church for their 75th Anniversary concert on the 8th December plus additionally providing refreshments in the interval for a choir of 37 and 120 guests. The church looked lovely as the Christmas trees from the Tree Festival held through December were mainly still in place. Maldon Orchestra generously agreed to donate their ticket fees in their entirety to Friends of St Luke's and therefore Sandra Redgewell (Chair of FoSL) was presented with a cheque at the end of the evening for £1,100 from Anne Bellett (Chair of Maldon Orchestra).



Our second donation came from Essex Police Choir who held a concert in the church on 14th December which was their final concert and an emotional goodbye to their Musical Director, Norman Eastbrook who was retiring from the choir after 35 years. They were joined by the Suffolk Police Male Voice Choir so a total choir of 55 choir members and around 150 guests. FoSL helped with arrangements for their high tea prior to the event and with refreshments and mince pies for choir and guests at the interval. After the concert Norman presented Sandra with a cheque for £500 towards their fund raising for the hall porch.

We are so grateful to both Maldon Orchestra and Essex Police Choir for their generous donations and together with the events coming up in 2025 including quiz nights, music events plus a fund raiser for cancer charities, we will be well on our way to achieving our target of £5,000 by the end of 2025. Details of our 2025 events are shown below.

On behalf of everyone at FoSL, we would like to wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year and hope to see you at some of our events this year.

Sandra Redgewell

Chair of FoSL

Events in 2025

Quiz night on behalf of TYPO (Tiptree Youth Project Outreach)	1st February
Valentine's 80's Music night (Tickets available from Computer Guys)	15th February
Quiz night hosted by Steve Scruton and Ian Wyatt of BBC Radio Essex	15th March
Jazz Night with Andy Brush (Ticket purchase to be advised)	26th April
80th Anniversary of VE Day Sinaglong with Tom Carradine	10th May
Barn Dance with John Dorsett	13th September
Fund raiser for Cancer Charities (all proceeds donated to 4 charities)	27th September
Quiz night hosted by FoSL	11th October
90's Music night	22nd November

Games Afternoons held every 4th Friday throughout 2025



For further information on any of the above, please e-mail
foslbookings@gmail.com

Tickets are now on sale for the 80's night at The Computer
Guys.



Book the Hall

for your meeting, group or event

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



**Good rates and
improved facilities!**



Hourly Rate:

£20 - regular bookings

£23 - one-off bookings

both including use of all facilities & kitchen

Wi-fi available for group leaders or speakers

(discuss your needs when making your booking)



Bookings & Enquiries to:

Gareth Williams: 01621 818069

Email: hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com

Why not give us a call?

We now have a Facebook Page www.facebook.com/tiptreechurchhall/

Regular Hall Bookings Calendar, at St Luke's:

For all hall bookings call Gareth Williams, 01621 818069

Email: hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com

Weekly **term time only*

	Morning:	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Parent & Toddlers; Chair Yoga	JIKO RYU Karate Club	
Tuesday	Tiptree Volunteers Coffee Morning (2 nd & 4 th Tues)	Pilates, Up in Lights Dance	
Wednesday	Slimming World, WEA* *(autumn & winter);	Private booking	
Thursday	Sound Collective Coffee & Choir	U3A Choir (2 nd & 4 th Thurs)	
Friday	Tiptree Art Club	Pilates	
Sunday	Church Coffee	KYDS Youth Drama Society	

Monthly

Sunday	Sunday Club (3 rd Sunday morning)
Tuesday	Little City (1 st Tuesday morning)
Wednesday	U3A Line Dance (2 nd Wednesday afternoon) Tiptree Tipplers (3 rd evening in month)
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)

If you are interested in making contact with any of the groups listed, please contact the Hall Bookings Administrator:

hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com

Find us on Facebook:  / tiptreechurchhall

December 2024

Danger ahead for Britain's canals

Our historic canals are in danger of disappearing.

Caught in a 'perfect storm' of extreme weather events and funding cuts, the canals could be facing irreparable damage to huge stretches of their waterways. The Canal and River Trust (CRT) warns that even the historic sections of the Grand Union Canal and the scenic Oxford Canal are at risk.

Now the CRT, which is responsible for the upkeep of the country's historic canal network, has launched a major fundraising campaign. Millions of pounds are needed for a programme of replacing ageing lock gates and repairing tunnels and bridges.

The problem is huge because our canal network, dating back to the 1760s, runs for a whopping 2,000 miles, providing a haven for wildlife as well as thousands of jobs along its routes.

But major storms caused almost £10 million of additional repairs to the network in just the past 18 months alone. This included a major landslip involving 4,000 tons of mud on the Oxford Canal, which severed one of the busiest and oldest canals in the country. Then parts of the Grand Union Canal bank and towpath near Leicester collapsed, needing £500,000 of repairs. Elsewhere, dams were breached and other canals flooded.

Meanwhile, the CRT says the money it receives from DEFRA is set to fall by more than £300 million from 2027.

Yet CRT points out: "Britain's ageing canals are a national treasure. They have been re-purposed for modern society for leisure, recreation and for their wildlife, supporting thousands of jobs and the economy and saving the NHS more than £1 billion annually because of the health and wellbeing benefits they bring to millions of people."

Parish Pump

National Nest Box Week – 14th to 21st February

Where can family-minded birds raise their young these days? As our gardens and parklands become smaller and tidier, too many natural nest sites – such as holes in trees, old buildings and unkempt hedgerows – are rapidly disappearing

No wonder that our sparrows, greenfinches and swifts are in precipitous decline, and that one in four of our UK bird species are now under serious threat.

This makes it more important than ever to care for our remaining birds. By feeding, providing water and putting up nest boxes we can give them a safe space to raise their chicks.

The National Nest Box Week initiative encourages bird conservation across the UK, and it's easy to get involved, whether you're a teacher, part of a local wildlife group, or just wanting to boost the bird numbers in your own garden.

Visit: <https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/birds/national-nest-box-week-how-to-help-birds-in-your-garden>

Parish Pump

Eric Liddell – from Olympic star to Japanese internment prisoner

Eighty years ago, on 21st February 1945, Scottish athlete Eric Liddell died. An Olympic gold medallist in 1924 at Paris, he had withdrawn from the 100m heat because it was held on a Sunday, and had entered the 400m instead. The story is featured in the film *Chariots of Fire*.

Liddell died in a Japanese internment camp in China, aged 43. He wrote to his wife on the day he died saying he was suffering from a nervous breakdown brought on by overwork, but he was also malnourished and had an undiagnosed brain tumour. Five months after his death, the camp was liberated.

Liddell was born in China to Scottish missionary parents and attended boarding school at Eltham College in South London, where he is remembered as an outstanding all-round athlete “entirely without vanity”. He later went to the University of Edinburgh, which awarded him a posthumous degree last year in recognition of his contribution to sport and humanity.

Originally intending to run in the 200m at Paris, Liddell discovered en route that the heats for the event would take place on a Sunday. So, he switched to the 400m – and won in an Olympic record time of 47.6 seconds.

“God made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure,” he said.

He returned to China the following year and stayed there until his death, apart from two furloughs to Scotland, during one of which in 1932 he was ordained a minister of the Congregational Union of Scotland. He then continued his selfless missionary work, largely as a teacher, in China, where he married Florence Mackenzie, a China-born Canadian. Their daughter Heather died in 2023.

When Scotsman Allan Wells won the 100m gold medal in Moscow in 1980, he dedicated his victory to Eric Liddell.

Parish Pump

Reading the Bible in church

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers that daunting task of reading in church.

‘He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord.’ 2 Kings 23:2

A friend was unexpectedly asked to read at a service as someone was unwell. He was caught just as he came in the church! Most of us like to look over a reading first and find the meaning of the passage. Some Bible readings are challenging, with difficult names of places and people. If it makes you feel better, no-one else knows how to pronounce these either, because there is no one around from Bible times!

It is not nice to be given a reading at the last minute, but then not good for the minister to suddenly get let down. To tell you the truth I have never liked reading, as it makes me dreadfully nervous. I prefer to preach or lead than read.

People worry about reading in church. Some of them would happily talk to a class of children or a boardroom, but there is something about church which is different. Perhaps we expect too much of ourselves. The best reading I ever heard in church was by a non-church goer. He did not know the reading, so he put a different emphasis on the passage. If you are reluctant, why not slip into church and give it a trial on a Saturday, when no-one is around?

Reading in church is a genuine ministry and is vital. It is important to give it our best try, as a way of learning about our faith. The Bible is meant to be heard as well as read.

Parish Pump

How many minutes of walking might help you avoid a heart attack?

It seems that keeping your heart reasonably healthy may not take a lot of time.

Researchers at the University of Sydney have found a link between short but intense bursts of activity and a significant drop in heart disease among people who otherwise engage in little activity.

Sedentary women who did just 3.4 minutes of “vigorous intermittent” exercise, such as brisk walking or climbing the stairs, each day, suffered 67 per cent fewer cases of heart failure, with an overall reduction in heart disease of 45 per cent, compared to those not exercising at all.

Sedentary men who did 2.3 minutes of exercise, which could include carrying heavy shopping or heavy garden work, saw an 11 per cent reduction in heart attacks and strokes.



Messy Church !

Join us here at St Luke's Church:



after school
from 3 pm to 5.30 pm On

Friday 7th February,

Friday 7th March

& on Good Friday, 18th April (at 1pm)

For:

**A simple
meal**

Songs

Friends

Games



Activities

Stories

Crafts

a short service

Revd Anne-Marie Renshaw: 01621 815260

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



Find us on Facebook: /tiptreestlukes

Reflecting Faith: Church Buildings

The Revd Dr Jo White considers the visual impact of church buildings.

We have been thinking about different aspects of church buildings. But what about ‘the whole thing’? - the impression you have when you first see a church building?

Most of us have visited many church buildings, either to worship or as a tourist: to enjoy the splendour, the colours, the style and the architecture, with or without necessarily a time of prayer or worship.

There are some amazingly staggering designs around the world – one only has to think of the complex and intricate stone carving of Gaudí’s catholic basilica in Barcelona, Spain (due to be completed next year!) and then compare that to the sleekness of the Lutheran (Church of Iceland) parish church in Reykjavík, Iceland.

How about the grandeur of St Peter’s in Rome, full of baroque gold and rich colours? Or what about St Basil’s Cathedral in Red Square, Moscow – now a museum but topped with amazingly coloured onion domes?

Just looking at the outside of a building tells you a lot about what it is likely to be like inside, the purpose of the building and the style of worship to expect there.

It’s not just about the condition of the fabric, or the tidiness of the grounds but rather the architecture itself.

When we see a contemporary modern building, we will expect the worship to match it: whether that is Protestant, Catholic or any other denomination.

If you were designing a brand-new church building today, what would you put into it and therefore what would the exterior look like? What would you want on the outside, to express your faith? Would you include any specific Christian symbols, or be more all-encompassing?

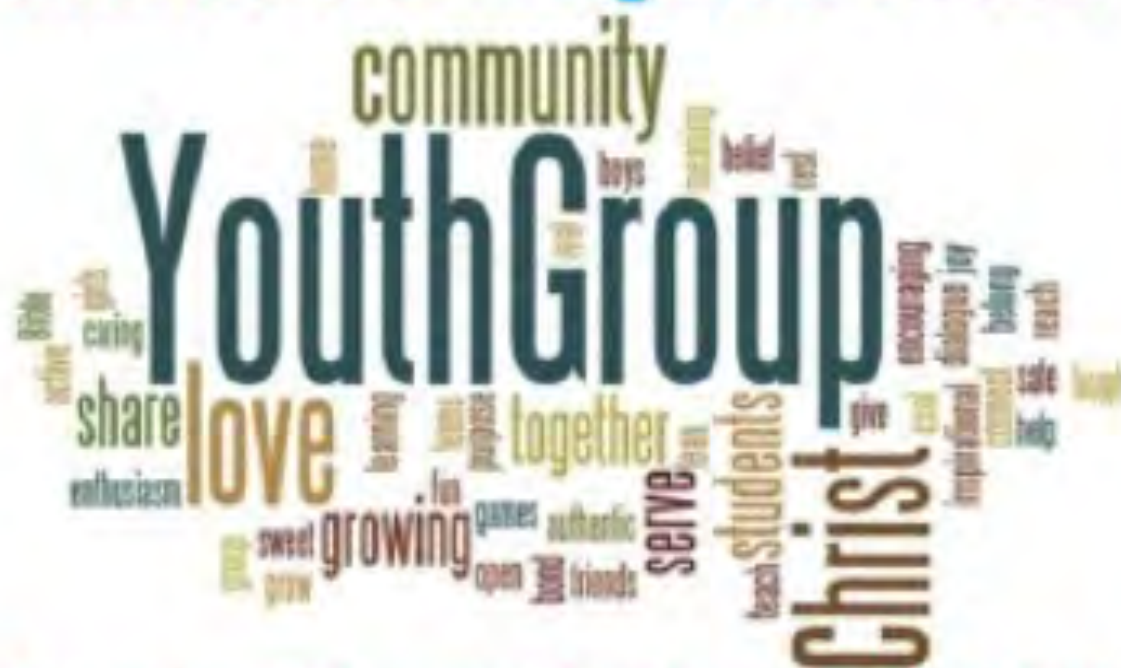
Parish Pump

Words of Wisdom

God's people have often been likened to diamonds - precious and hidden, beautified by pressure and cut to capture light.

CITY

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for young people in school years 7* – 11 (ages
11 – 16) * open to year 6 from Easter**

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£1 per week, first session FREE**

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Contact: andy@typo.uk.net



CITY CITY CITY CITY

Churches In Tiptree Youth

Christmas Tree Festival Pictures





LENT COURSE 2025 — A CHRISTIAN LOOK AT THE ENVIRONMENT

Join us this Lent as we use materials produced by the John Ray Initiative to think about what a Christian approach to environmental issues might look like. Each session will look at a Bible passage in the context of the environment, then there will be a reflection from a different angle drawing on the wisdom of theologians and scientists to apply the biblical thinking to current environmental issues, sparking questions and issues for discussion. See www.jri.org.uk/resources-studies/ for further information.

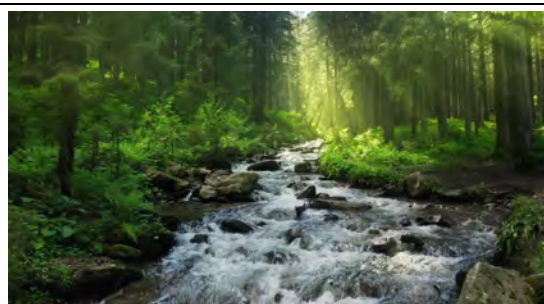
Tuesdays 7.30-9.00pm at St Luke's Church, Tiptree with refreshments

**Thursdays at 12 for 12.30 — 2pm at 7 Birch Way, Birch Green, CO2 0NQ
with a soup lunch**

Session details and dates

Tues 11 March	Session 1 — The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.
Thurs 13 March	Genesis 1:1 to 2:3 led by Wendy Borgartz
Tues 18 March	Session 2 — What are humans that you are mindful of them?
Thurs 20 March	Psalms 8 led by Rev'd. Christine Newmarch
Tues 25 March	Session 3 — Love your neighbour as yourself.
Thurs 27 March	Matthew 22:34-40 led by Rev'd. Liz Barnes
Tues 1 April	Session 4 — Jesus is the image of the invisible God.
Thurs 3 April	Colossians 1:15-20 led by Anne Wild
Tues 8 April	Session 5 — Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.
Thurs 10 April	Matthew 5:1-10 led by Rev'd. Ruth Hatchett

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US
FOR ANY OR ALL SESSIONS,
ATTENDANCE IS FREE**



Remember the ‘Millennium Bug’?

It was 25 years ago, on 1st January 2000, that the calendar switched over to the year 2000, with no major computer problems from the Y2K “Millennium Bug”.

The Y2K bug was a computer flaw involving software and hardware that might have caused problems when dealing with dates beyond 31st December, 1999. This was because, for storage reasons, there had been a practice of using two figures for dates – for instance 78 instead of 1978. It was therefore feared that 00 for 2000 might be interpreted as 1900, with chaos resulting in the power industry, transportation or anywhere that computers were critical.

When this potential problem was recognised – surprisingly late, in the mid-1990s – a great deal of money was poured into preventing it from happening, particularly by countries like the USA and Australia, as well as the UK.

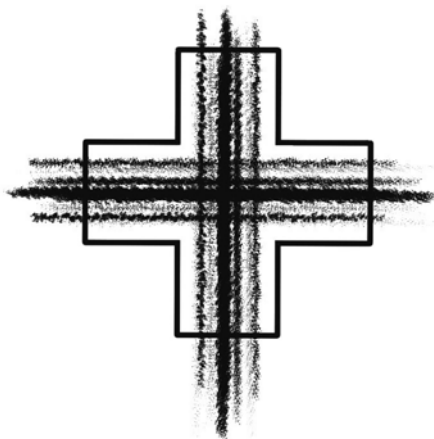
Other countries, such as Russia, South Korea and Italy, spent almost nothing on the problem. Ironically, they suffered no more in the end than those who invested many millions, because it turned out that there were very few difficulties.

A nuclear energy facility in Japan experienced failure in its radiation equipment, but backup facilities ensured there was no danger. Missile launches were detected in Russia and attributed to the Y2K bug, but the launches had been planned as part of Russia's conflict in Chechnya.

Because of the lack of disastrous outcomes, many people dismissed the Y2K bug as a hoax or an end-of-the-world cult. A small number of fundamentalist Christians had been interpreting the whole issue as apocalyptic, involving the breakdown of society, the Last Days and the subsequent Second Coming.

Similar computer problems had been predicted for other years, for similar but obviously not identical reasons. They include 1975, 1999, 2010, 2022 and – wait for it – 2038.

Parish Pump



Ash Wednesday

This year's Ash Wednesday service will be at Layer Breton Church on 5th March at 8pm.

Smile

Hearing

A tiny lady was the guest preacher. A few minutes into her sermon, she paused and said: "Can you all hear me at the back?" A kind voice replied: "We can hear you fine. But sadly, we can't quite see you."

Visit

The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet his parishioners. At one house where he knocked, a woman inside called out: "Is that you, Angel?"

The vicar hesitated and then called back: "No, but I'm from the same department."

Chocolate

A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine's Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the inscription: 'To Helen, with all my allowance.'

Experience

"Dad," asked little Ted, "what does a man's better half mean?"

"Usually," his father said, "she means exactly what she says."

Taste

A woman wasn't feeling well and went to A&E. The nurse asked her: "Have you experienced a sudden loss of taste?"

"No," admitted the woman sadly. "I've always dressed this way."

Bible

A father was approached by his small son, who told him proudly, "I now know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and asked him to explain. "It's easy. It stands for Basic Information Before Leaving Earth."

Labels

I have my own system for labelling homemade freezer meals. I no longer bother with labels like 'chicken casserole' or 'lasagne' or 'steak and ale pie'. Instead, I use 'Whatever', 'Anything', or 'I Don't Know.' That way when I ask my family what they want for dinner, I always have it to hand.

Sermon

The church warden asked the curate how she thought the church service had gone. The curate shrugged. "The music was excellent, and the prayers were relevant, but I wonder if my sermon ever really got off the ground."

The church warden was sympathetic. "Never mind, it certainly taxied a long way."



Baptisms

5 January Oliver Wiggins

St Luke's

Funerals

6 Dec Carole Bysouth

Colchester Crematorium

9 Dec Roger Mannion

Colchester Crematorium

17 Dec Ivy McCheyne

Great Braxted

20 Dec Debbie Marshall

St Luke's

8 Jan Michael Corbett

St Luke's

22 Jan Brian Hull

Inworth

No place to park

It is often hard to find a parking space. So, a lot of us are taking chances – and getting caught.

As a nation we were handed six million penalty charge notices in 2023 alone, according to recent research by Confused.com, the insurance comparison website.

With 42.3 million driving licences on issue, according to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), this suggests that one in seven drivers received a fine for parking offences in 2023.

Rhydian Jones, a spokesman for Confused.com, said: "If you're unsure whether you can park in a space or not, don't take the risk, even if it's only for a few minutes."

Parking charge notices handed out by local councils can cost up to £100 for parking infringements, although according to Confused.com the average parking fine is £47.

Parish Pump

Former head of M15 to lead search for new Archbishop of Canterbury

The Prime Minister has appointed The Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL to chair the new Crown Nominations Commission for Canterbury.

The Crown Nominations Commission is the C of E committee that will nominate the candidate to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Welby completed his duties on 6th January.

Jonathan Evans has been a Crossbench member of the House of Lords since 2014. Until October 2023 he was Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. He is currently Chair of the HALO Trust, the anti-landmine charity, and of the Public Interest Committee at KPMG UK. He is a former Director-General of the Security Service, MI5. He is an active and communicant member of his local parish church.

Books of the Bible

Canon Paul Hardingham

Acts

The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, a physician-friend and fellow-traveller of Paul. It complements his gospel, both being written for Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1), in around AD 63, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

While Luke's gospel records what Jesus *began* to do and teach, Acts tells us about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach through the disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit (1:1-3).

Luke's aim is:

To present a history. Christianity has a firm historical foundation. The life and teaching of Jesus Christ are recorded in the Gospels; Acts provides an account of the spread of the Church, as the result of the work of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

To give a defense. We read speeches to both Jews (eg 4:8–12) and Gentiles (eg 25:8–11), showing us how the Early Church challenged pagan and Jewish thought, the Roman government and Hellenistic culture.

To provide a guide. We see basic gospel principles being applied to specific situations in the context of problems and persecution. These same principles are applicable for us today.

To depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution. The success of the Church carrying the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome and planting local churches demonstrates that it operates under the rule of the exalted Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (1:8). Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the first Christians in their witness, so He will do the same for us today!

Job

'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 (chs 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)



Eustace King

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On the peculiarities of ordination candidates

The Rectory
St. James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

I was quite happy to see the young person from your church whom you are encouraging to get ordained – even though we did not entirely see eye to eye.

When I answered the door to someone dressed in T-shirt, jeans and trainers, I naturally assumed he was the gardener; it was only after I had given him the wheelbarrow and shown him where the spades were, that I found out who he really was. His assurance that this is how Jesus would dress, were He to visit in person again, jarred somewhat. I think that a three-piece suit and stout pair of brogues would be far more likely. We agreed to differ.

I was interested to hear that he was a church musician. Wanting to know if he sang tenor or bass, or even played the organ, he told me that he was the drummer in the worship band and provided backing vocals. I felt obliged to comment that I was not sure how that would fit in with Mattins, but he told me that he had never heard of that Service, and only attended Mega Rock Praise. Since I suspected it would not have been written by Cranmer, we moved on.

I had hoped we may have been on safer ground when I asked him whether he preferred early perpendicular or Victorian gothic, but as he had apparently only ever worshipped in your converted cinema, he was unable to offer any opinion. His reaction to my offer to show him round our late Norman church, prompted him to tell me that he believed all churches should be closed and people should gather in each other's homes, like the early Christians.

In a last despairing attempt to find common ground I asked him if he had ever preached. He was slightly apologetic to admit that he had done so very rarely, as he found it took such a long time to write an hour-long sermon. When I mentioned that I did not think I had ever exceeded eight minutes in my entire life, he gave me such a look of withering astonishment that with heroic Christian charity, I did not beat him over the head with the Bible he was carrying.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



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Mannequin
INTERIORS
BY RUTH HOULDING



"It's worth getting to church an hour early to grab a pew by the electric socket."



"That's two t's in Matthew", said Osric

All in the month of February

It was

65 years ago, on 8th Feb 1960 that Queen Elizabeth II issued an Order-in-Council stating that she and her family would be known as the House of Windsor, and that her descendants would use the surname Mountbatten-Windsor.

75 years ago, on 8th Feb 1950 that the world's first payment by credit card took place. The founders of Diners Club (now Diners Club International) used it to pay their restaurant bill at Majero's Cabin Grill in New York City.

20 years ago, on 10th Feb 2005 that Charles, Prince of Wales, and Camilla Parker Bowles announced their engagement. They were married on 9th April 2005.

50 years ago, on 14th Feb 1975 that P G Wodehouse died. This well-loved British-born American comic novelist, short story writer, lyricist and playwright is best known as the creator of Jeeves.

20 years ago, on 14th Feb 2005 that YouTube, the online video-sharing service, was founded. It was purchased by Google in 2006.

90 years ago, on 22nd Feb 1935 that US President Franklin D Roosevelt banned aircraft from flying over the White House – because the noise kept him awake at night. The ban remains in place today, but mainly now for security reasons.

30 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1995 that James Herriot, veterinary surgeon and best-selling author, died. Best known for his autobiographical book All Creatures Great and Small, which was adapted into a popular TV series.

All in the month of March

It was

210 years ago, on 1st March 1810, that Frederic Chopin, composer and pianist, was born.

80 years ago, on 2nd March 1930, that the novelist D H Lawrence died.

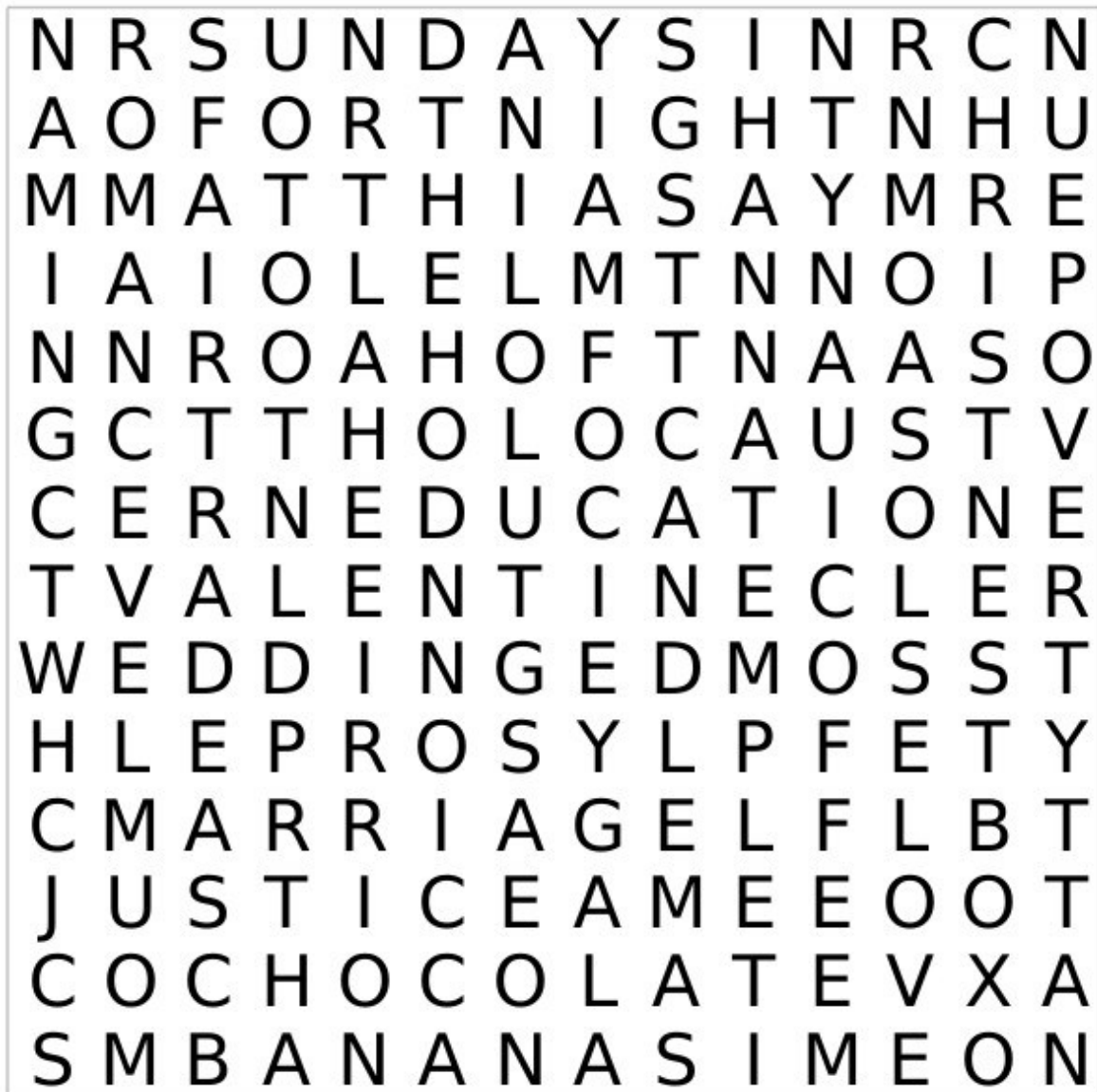
115 years ago, on 10th March 1910, that the silent film In Old California was released. It was the first film shot in Hollywood.

65 years ago, on 22nd March 1960, that American physicists Arthur Schawlow and Charles Townes are awarded the world's first patent for a laser.

170 years ago, on 31st March 1855, that Charlotte Bronte, the reclusive Yorkshire novelist and author of Jane Eyre died.

Wordsearch

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

Ten things God won't ask you when you die

God won't ask what kind of car you drove; He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the size of your house; He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet; He'll ask how many people you helped to clothe.

God won't ask which diet you were on; He'll ask how many hungry people you helped to feed.

God won't ask what your highest salary was; He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was; He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had; He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived; He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.

God won't ask about the colour of your skin; He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Him; He'll lovingly take you into His Kingdom, not leave you at the gates of Hell.

St Luke's Ladies Group

- 27 February *** Chair Yoga (Silver Spiral) - Zoe Smith
20 March Air Ambulance - Speaker to be confirmed
24 April * First Aid (Recognising & Managing Common Medical Emergencies) - Lynsey Crowley
15 May "Kiss Me Goodnight Sergeant Major" (WWII D-Day) - Tony Harris
16 June Annual General Meeting + Susie Sings
17 July Goat Soap - Irene Varnett

* Note date change to 4th Thursday

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 £4.00
INCLUDES RAFFLE
& REFRESHMENTS



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really *connect*

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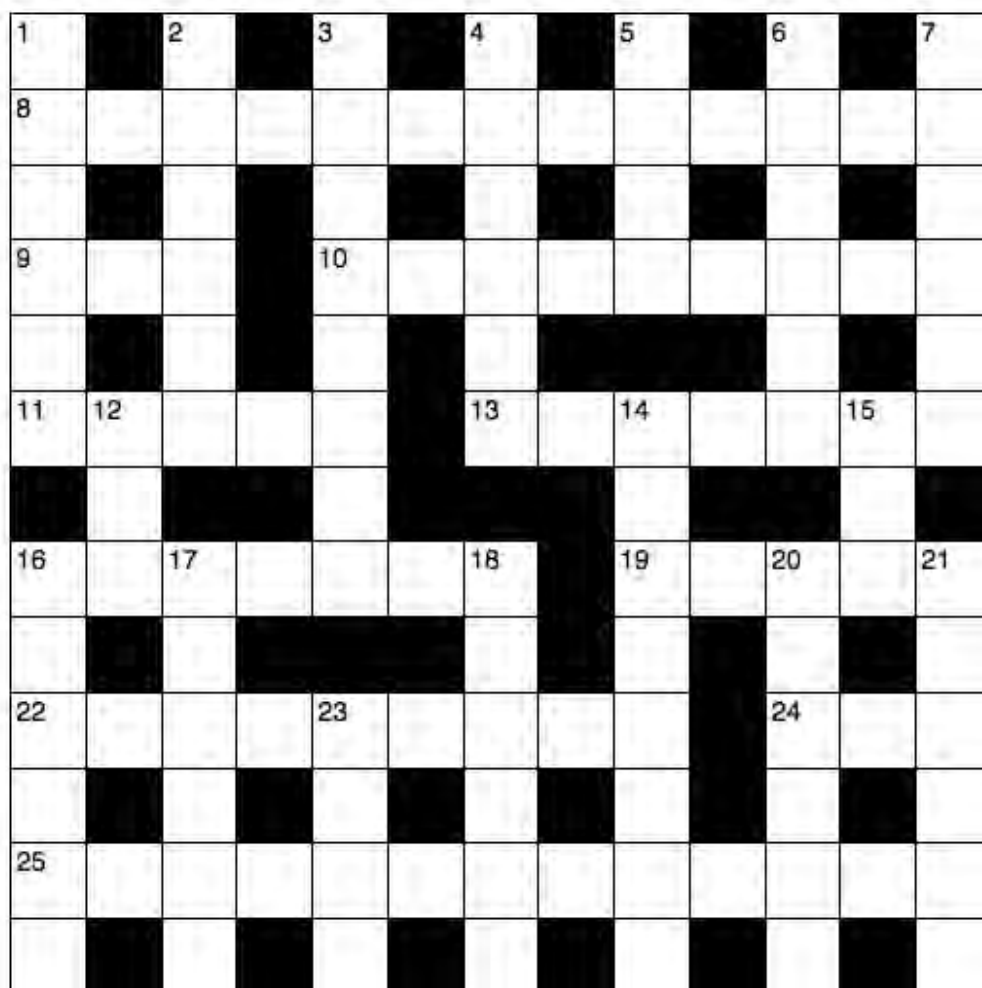
#YOUCANCARE



Tiptree Choral Society began a new term on the 9th of January and we are all enjoying working on the music for our Easter concert. We are excited that we will once again have the Kingfisher Sinfonietta, led by Beth Spendlove, to accompany us as we sing Ola Gjeilo's beautiful 'Sunrise Mass' and Gounod's 'Mass to St Cecelia', the patron saint of music. The concert will be sung at St Luke's Church Tiptree on Saturday 12th April at 7:30pm.

There will be more information about the concert nearer the time, but if you feel you would like to be a part of this term's music making, please do come along to a rehearsal at the URC and see if we are a good fit for you - Thursday evenings, 7:30 – 9:00pm. You can just turn up or email tiptreechoral@outlook.com for more information.

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)

TIPTREE BEER & WINE MAKERS GUILD (Otherwise known as the TIPTREE TIPLERS)

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

You do not have to make your own wine or beer or be knowledgeable about wine or beer making. The only requirement is to have fun and meet great people.

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

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

You are most welcome to come and try out a night for free. Just turn up and make yourself known to Bill or Sonia and bring a drink for yourself. There is no admission fee & our yearly membership is just £35, if you wish to join..

See the church notice board for our events in 2024

For more information contact Bill Bradbury billhbradbury@gmail.com or Sonia Stirling sonia.stirling@btinternet.com or phone 01621 819087



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

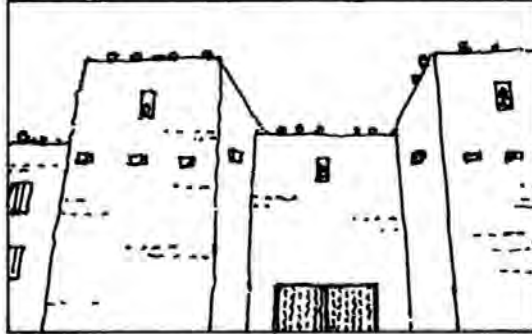
It can be read in the Bible in
Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the
river Jordan. They camped near the
town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

The people in Jericho
locked the town gates.



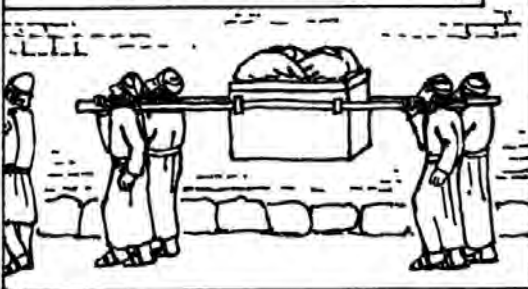
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua
what to do.



On the first day, the priests
carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets,
and walked round
Jericho once.



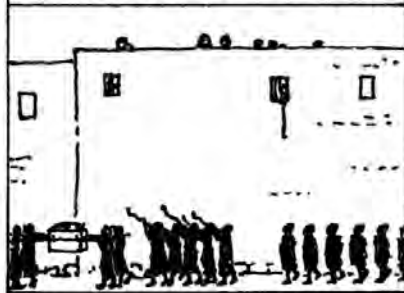
The army followed
not saying a word.



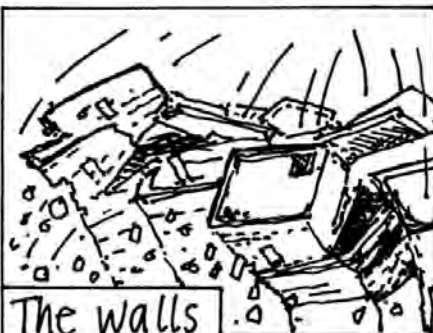
They did this
for 6 days.



On the 7th day they
walked round 7 times.



The army gave a victory shout!



The walls
of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into
the town and
captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.

The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

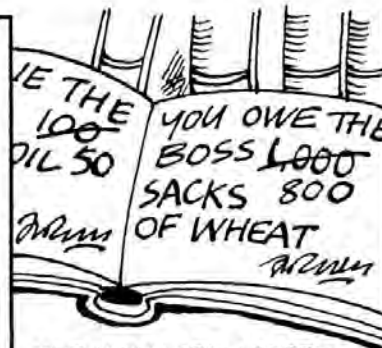


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!



THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!



SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

Rome bracing to welcome 60 million visitors this year

If you like peace and quiet, it is best to avoid Rome this year.

For 2025 is a Jubilee Year for the city, and tens of millions of visitors worldwide are expected to converge on Rome. In all, a staggering 60 million are expected.

As Pope Francis has recently explained: "Once again, Rome will welcome pilgrims from across the globe, as it did in 1300 during the first Church Jubilee." Many religious and cultural events on the theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope' are planned.

The Pope foresees that this year Rome will be a "place of hospitality, a melting pot of diversity and dialogue, a multicultural hub where the world's colours come together like a mosaic. Rome can embody an eternal spirit, rooted in its glorious past yet committed to building a future without barriers, discrimination or mistrust."

The Jubilee tradition harks back to Old Testament Jewish practices. The modern tradition of Jubilee began with Pope Boniface VIII. It was seen as a time of grace, "offering freedom to those imprisoned by sin, resignation, and despair."

The 2025 Jubilee coincides with the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, as well as a rare common celebration of Easter by all the Churches.



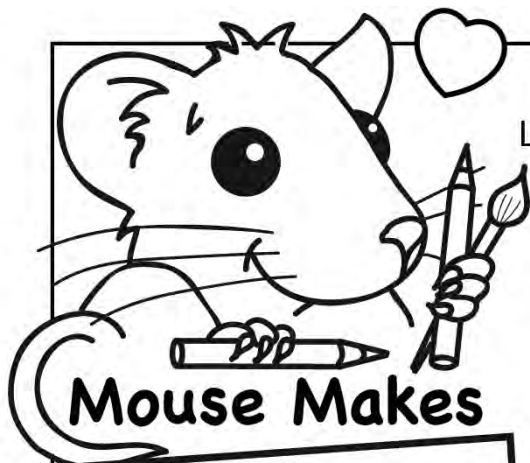
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Mouse Makes

"Love is

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

_____, 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
_____.

Psalms 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

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

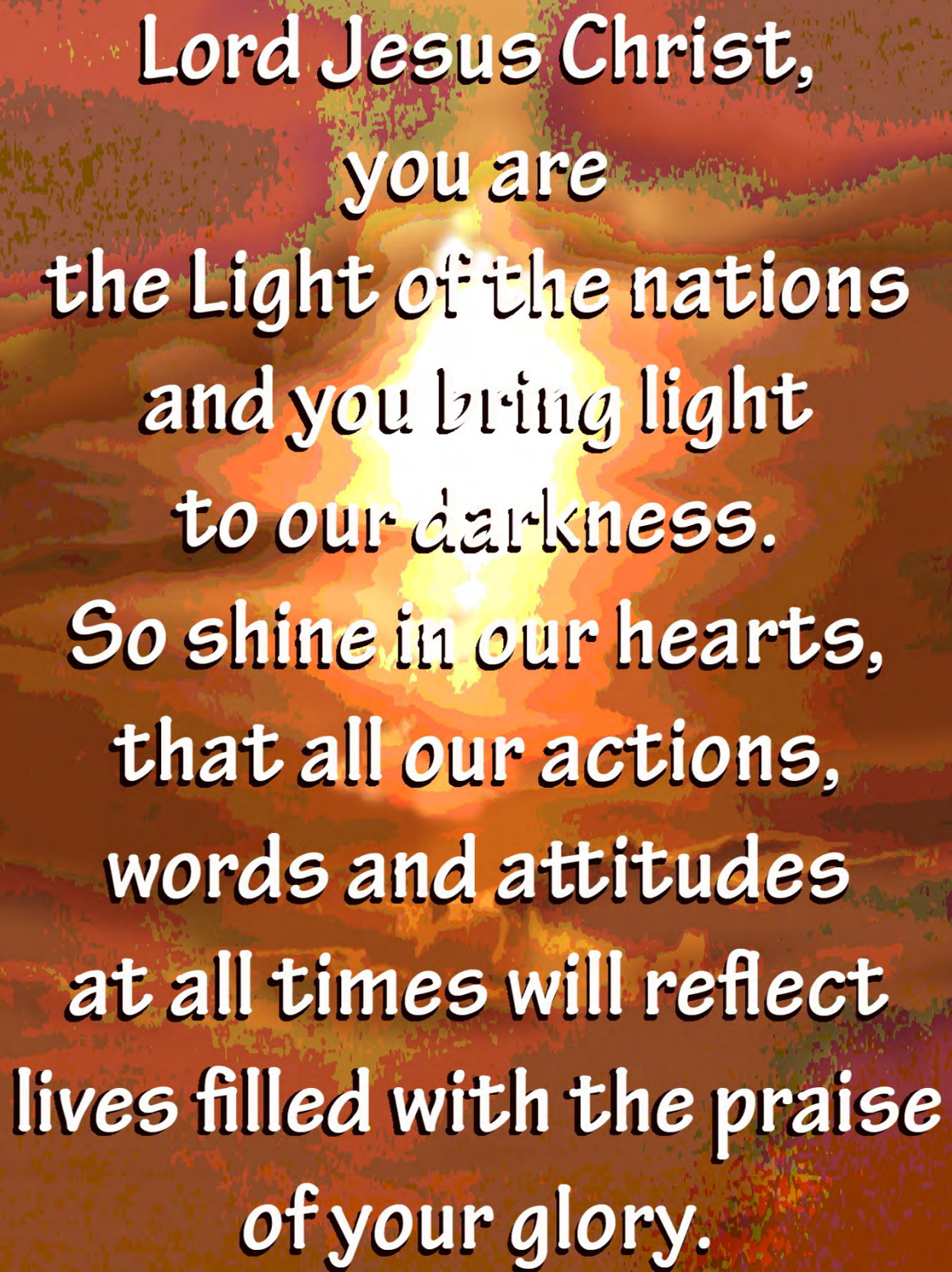


P T Y D E B P O P T E L T
E R D L N M A Y R F D G R A
A U G O D J T H O P E F U L
C S K V U U I K T S F L T O
E T P E R S E V E R E S H Y
K I N D E T N B C S N L F A
M N I Y S L T W T S D M U L
I G R A C I O U S E S K L I
H U M B L E S E L F L E S S

Solutions:

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

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



**Lord Jesus Christ,
you are
the Light of the nations
and you bring light
to our darkness.
So shine in our hearts,
that all our actions,
words and attitudes
at all times will reflect
lives filled with the praise
of your glory.**

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