

June/July 2025

OPEN DOOR



W
The Thurstable
& Winstree
Team Ministry

£1.00

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

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www.thurstablewinstree.org

**Deadline for the next edition: August/September 2025
Sunday 6th July 2025.**

FROM THE TEAM RECTOR

One of the saints who has a feast day in June is Barnabas, who is celebrated on 11 June. Barnabas emerges in the Acts of the Apostles as one of the most significant leaders in the early church. He is described as a Levite from Cyprus – so from the Greek world, rather than Jewish origins – originally called Joseph, but named Barnabas by the apostles. His new name means “son of encouragement”. We know he was a generous giver, selling a field and donating the money to the church.



After Saul’s dramatic conversion to Christianity, it would be Barnabas who would introduce him to the leaders of the church in Jerusalem and would persuade them that Saul – now Paul - no longer posed a danger to them. He was later sent to Antioch to support a new church there. Luke, the writer of Acts, describes him as “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith”. Barnabas fetched Paul to join him and they spent a year in Antioch leading the church together. It was there that believers were first called “Christians”.

Paul and Barnabas travelled to many other places together. Eventually they fell out over a fellow disciple named Mark. Mark had let them down on a previous occasion, so Paul didn’t want him to be involved in their work, but Barnabas, the son of encouragement, wanted to give Mark a second chance. They couldn’t agree so, in the end, Barnabas took Mark with him to his native Cyprus while Paul took Silas in a different direction. Barnabas is believed to have been martyred in Cyprus in the year 61.

I wonder how many people Barnabas made a difference to and encouraged in their own faith? Paul and Mark certainly and also the churches in Antioch and all the other places that he visited. I am grateful for the people who have encouraged me over the years, especially the people in the churches where I grew up and worshipped as a student, who encouraged me to take my first steps into ministry. I wonder who you could encourage today and what a difference that might make to their life?

Anne-Marie Renshaw



Congratulations

To
Frank and Ruth Le Poidevin
who celebrate their
65th Wedding Anniversary
(Blue Sapphire)
on 6th June 2025



PCC Membership

Following the conclusion of the various APCM's across the team the PCC's of each Church are as follows:

Inworth

Chair: Rev'd Anne-Marie Renshaw
Churchwarden: Mrs Jane Walker
Treasurer: Rev'd Michael Hatchett
Secretary: Mrs Sue Bunting
Lay Vice-chair: Mr Mark Walker
Sidesmen: Mrs Brenda Taylor, Mrs Yvonne Towler, Mrs Sue Bunting
Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Brenda Taylor
Ex Officio: Rev'd Liz Barnes & Rev'd Christine Newmarch

Messing

Chair: Rev'd Anne-Marie Renshaw
Treasurer: Paul Marven,
Churchwarden: Helen Longman,
Churchwarden: Anne Buckingham,
Assistant Churchwarden: Paul Buckingham,
Secretary: Anne Wild,
Kate Jackson
Andrew Harding
Ex Officio: Rev'd Liz Barnes & Rev'd Christine Newmarch

Tiptree

Chair: Rev'd Anne-Marie Renshaw	Jane Lawrence
Churchwarden: Clive Eastbrook (and Lay Vice Chair)	Sue Lyne
Churchwarden: Sheila Gunson	Linda Morrison
Treasurer: Martin Borgartz (Deanery Synod + Team Council)	Rev'd Christine Newmarch
Secretary: Sue Long	Pauline Swindle (Deanery Synod)
Rev'd Liz Barnes	Harold Toms (Deanery Synod)
Wendy Borgartz	Diana Webb
Ian Calvert	Alison Weston
Rev'd Christine Eaton	Eric Wilson

Surge in visits to church search website

AChurchNearYou.com

The number of page visits to the Church of England's church-finder website soared by 55 per cent last year to almost 200 million, as growing numbers of people searched for their local congregation.

Public page views on [AChurchNearYou.Com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) hit 198.6 million in 2024 – up from 128.1 million in 2023 and up more than three quarters on the previous year.

The figure does not include the 9.7-million-page impressions from the site's army of local editors, who maintain and update parish pages, adding and tagging worship services, events and community action projects such as food banks.

Users shared a total of 11,733 church services and events from AChurchNearYou.Com on social media last year – a 268 per cent increase in a year.

And 18,445 services and events were added to calendars on people's mobile phones and other devices, a 200 per cent increase on the previous year.

The surging use of AChurchNearYou.Com comes after polls suggested growing interest in faith.

The Bible Society's recent report *The Quiet Revival* pointed to evidence of a turnaround in the numbers of young people identifying as Christian, and who say they regularly attend church.

The Church of England's Head of Digital, Amaris Cole, said: "We're delighted that more people than ever are looking for a local church via our church-finder tool, [AChurchNearYou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com).

"The staggering increase shows the public are more interested than ever in connecting with one of our communities, whether for a service, an event, a family activity or one of the amazing projects our churches run.

"Our churches regularly report newcomers who have found them through the site, so the rise in page hits is giving our editors confidence in inviting the public in to one of our 16,000 spaces.

"Because everyone is welcome, we've prioritised accessibility by adding tags to help visitors find the service for them – whether there is wheelchair access, gluten-free refreshments, British Sign Language translation or dementia friendly. These can be found by using the tags when searching for churches in your area."

Parish Pump

From Andy Butt

Tiptree Youth Project Outreach

Community Youth Worker

It's been some time since I last wrote for *Open Door* but a far from idle time for me as I've continued to run both the CITY group and Wednesday Youth Club alongside being a regular presence in Thurstable School throughout this school year.



I'm hopeful too that by the time you read this we may be sharing good news as our latest round of advertising for a sessional Youth Worker to help me with Wednesday Youth Club and CITY has at last had a good level of interest. I'm grateful for the continued support of the Essex Police Fire & Crime Commissioners office for their continued support for this through extending their Violence and Vulnerability Community Grant to us. Violence? Vulnerability? Surely not in Tiptree you may ask. Well yes we are fortunate that this community is not regularly subject to these, but the reality is that all young people are deemed vulnerable unless well supported, and that is where youth clubs come in, by providing safe spaces for young people and opportunities to guide them on to good paths.

The summer term is also a good chance for me to create new connections and relationships with local children heading to secondary school for the first time in September. Once again Anne-Marie, Wendy and I are delivering the Scripture Union *It's Your Move* workshop to year 6's, helping them to prepare for the transition from primary to Big school. Many are ready for this, other still anxious and unsure. We will hopefully be reassuring them as well as leaving them with a great handbook full of practical advice, games and puzzles plus invitations for them to join me at my youth activities.

Our hopes to establish an activity for 11 -18's from across the deanery has been slow to get going. We do though feel there is a real need for this to bring local young people from within the churches together for a mutual encouragement, praise, prayer and worship. Do pray that we find a way to get this right, both for those in Tiptree and beyond.

As always I'm happy to chat with you if you want to find out more about what I'm doing, or perhaps you'd like to help me, either by praying for TYP0 activities or joining me as a volunteer. Believe me, young people help keep you young yourself!

Enjoy the summer

Andy Butt

Contact me by email Andy@TYPO.uk.net or see me about the village

Friends 
of St Luke's, Tiptree



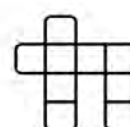
Games Afternoon

4th Friday, Every Month, 2-4pm

£3 per person

Includes Biscuits, Coffee, Tea,
& Good Company!

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





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**

Food Bank Shopping List



Items suitable to be donated:

Long life milk

Breakfast cereal

Fruit juice

Tea

Coffee

Biscuits

Jam

Squash

Tinned vegetables

Soup

Baked beans

Tinned custard

Tinned rice pudding

Tinned fruit

Pasta

Rice

Pasta sauce

Tinned tomatoes

Tinned meat

Tinned fish

Tinned potatoes

Cereal bars

Crisps (6-pack)

Sugar

Treats

Toilet roll

Toiletries

Laundry detergent

Cleaning products

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

*Thank you for your
kind support*

September 2024

Eight crimes a day are committed against UK churches

On average, at least eight crimes a day have been committed against churches in the UK, over the past three years (2022 to 2024).

So reports the Countryside Alliance, giving the findings of its latest campaign.

When the Countryside Alliance made Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to the UK's 45 territorial police forces, it found that there had been 9,148 records of theft, burglary, criminal damage, vandalism and assault from January 2022 to December 2024.

This means that, on average, at least eight crimes took place at churches every single day over the three-year period.

179 lead and metal thefts were recorded, along with 3,758 other thefts and burglaries, 3,237 incidents of criminal damage, vandalism and arson, and 1,974 cases of violence.

The worst-hit areas were West Yorkshire, (1,121 crimes recorded), followed by Kent (655) and Greater Manchester (642).

Mo Metcalf-Fisher, Director of External Affairs at the Countryside Alliance, said:

"Horrific attacks on churches and places of worship continue to happen all across the country. Criminals treat them as easy targets, brazenly stealing from and causing criminal damage to these focal points of our communities.

"Churches and places of worship are meant to be places of sanctity and refuge. Increasingly, however, they seem to be being subjected to awful acts of crime on a regular basis.

"We cannot allow these cherished places to continue to be unprotected against the machinations of criminals – it is vital that the public keep a watchful eye and report any issues to the police."

A Church of England spokeswoman said:

"Our churches play such a crucial role in providing spiritual, pastoral and practical support to their local communities, helped by our wonderful volunteers. A crime committed at a church is a real setback, not just for its congregation, but for all those who benefit from its presence in their community".

Assistant Chief Constable Rachel Nolan, National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Heritage Crime said:

"Stealing from, or damaging any places of worship, historic buildings and cultural sites is abhorrent.

“Churches are important to many communities across the country and these crimes directly impact people who visit, worship and enjoy those spaces. They are attacks on our national and local heritage, and they can cause irreplaceable damage.

“We are committed to tackling this issue and our heritage crime officers will continue to work with partners to reduce offending and raise awareness about the long-lasting damage heritage crime can have. We ask everyone to report anything suspicious online, via 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers, and have some great Heritage Watch schemes across the country people can join.”

The Countryside Alliance has called on the Government to extend future funding and promotion of the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme, provided free of charge by the Home Office to protect places of worship and associated community centres in England and Wales.

Parish Pump

Parent & Toddlers at St Luke's

Meet here every
MONDAY morning
9.15am – 11.15am

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



Everyone welcome! Parents or carers, grandparents, friends and childminders. Meet up, have a chat, relax and play!



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



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

The simple pleasures of Ordinary Time

One great phrase of the Church of England, which is little-known but carries a wealth of rich meaning, is 'ordinary time'. While the seasons of Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Advent all have their fixtures and moments for focus and concentration, the bulk of the summer months is 'ordinary time'! A very evocative phase – nothing particularly to focus on or to celebrate.

Just because it is 'ordinary', it does not mean it is not important or of no significance to how God wants us to use our lives. For most of us life is lived between high and low points: we look forward to something on the horizon or we are seeking to recover from something. So, it should be no surprise that ordinary time is the longest season in the Church calendar. Abraham Lincoln once said that: "God must love ordinary people because He made so many of them"!

Ordinary people, it seems to me, need 'ordinary time'. Sundays and weekdays in-between, to sense God's presence with us in the day-to-day mundane, and ordinary comings and goings of life. He is there in the heights of resurrection joy and celebration. He is with us in the vulnerability and frailty of human weakness, modelled in the incarnation. He is with us in our efforts to discipline ourselves and be moulded by him (Lent) but He is also with us whenever we are conscious of life just being ordinary. When our eyes are opened to these things, we will see what an extraordinary God we have!

Parish Pump

Danger on rural roads

Did you know that driving on rural roads is more dangerous than driving on urban ones?

According to the NFU Mutual's Rural Road Safety report for 2023, the number of lives lost on rural roads was a staggering 70% higher than on urban highways. Also, collisions on rural roads were around four times more likely to result in a fatality than on an urban one.

The reasons as to why this should be include: changing speed limits, blind corners, field entrances, narrow carriageways, single lanes with no hard shoulders, limited or no road lighting, mud and debris on the road, livestock and wild animals on the road, and agricultural vehicles.

And so it is that the NFU has campaigned to improve rural road safety, and it has now published its 'Code for Countryside Roads' to guide people as to how to drive safely. More info at: <https://www.nfumutual.co.uk>

Parish Pump

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK TEAM

The Team meets once a term to review and discuss the various work undertaken across the Parish with young people and children. We also keep safeguarding under review as part of our work. We then usually run through the following list of activities, discussing how they are running, any suggestions for improvement or any new ideas:

- Parent and Toddlers group
- Messy Church
- Sunday Club
- Baptisms
- Admission of children to Communion/Confirmations
- Primary schools
- TYPO

At our last meeting in March there were no safeguarding issues identified to report. Sunday club is not running at present due to a lack of children. Messy Church is going well, 27 children attended in March, the challenge is to engage parents so they continue to come to church once their children are too old for Messy Church. Work with schools is going well, Anne-Marie did Ash Wednesday services at all four church schools and at Milldene. Wendy now leads assemblies at Tiptree Heath, Layer de la Haye and Birch schools. All the schools, except Baynards, are participating in It's Your Move for year 6 transition to secondary schools this year. There are 3 young people who want to be confirmed in September 2025, preparations are to start soon led by Andy with help from Anne-Marie, Wendy and others. The Deanery youth work needs to start in April, Andy is preparing flyers for this.

Wendy Borgartz

Gen Z drivers hesitate to park their own cars

Two thirds of all Gen Z drivers (aged 18-to-28 years old) have asked their parents or friends to park their car for them. 96% admit they are anxious about parallel or reverse parking.

This compares to 28 per cent of Generation X (aged 45 to 60) who have asked for help in parking, and 14 per cent of Baby Boomers (aged 61 to 70).

The research, carried out by online British car retailer Cazoo, also found that Gen Z drivers get most anxious about 'parking while others are waiting' (47 per cent), 'parking between two cars close together' (43 per cent) and 'parallel parking' (40 per cent).

97 per cent of Gen Z drivers admit that they even sometimes park further away from their destination, in order to find a roomier space.

Another recent survey, by Enterprise Mobility, has found that Gen Z drivers are paying thousands extra for an electric car, rather than use a petrol or diesel model. Some under -25s are even spending more than £16,000, to buy an EV as their first car.

Parish Pump

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, at St Luke's:

For all hall bookings call Gareth Williams

01621 818069

Email: hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com

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

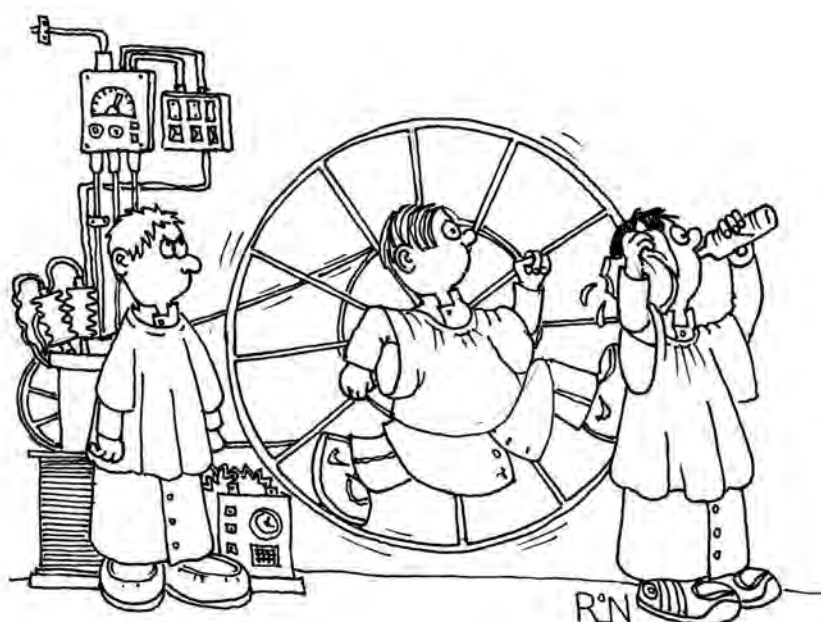
Monthly

Sunday	Sunday Club (3 rd Sunday morning)
Tuesday	Little City (1 st Tuesday morning)
Wednesday	U3A Line Dance (2 nd Wednesday afternoon) Tai Chi 2.30 pm (3 rd Wednesday) & 1.30 pm (4 th Wednesday)
	Tiptree Tiplers (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 in the month) Games Afternoon (4 th Friday afternoon)

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

Find us on Facebook:  /tiptreechurchhall

May 2025



When the solar panels weren't working,
there was Plan B

How many steps a day is enough?

Counting steps has, for many of us, become a part of our lives. We feel triumphant when we hit 10,000, and guilty when we notch up less than 2,000 a day.

But daily steps, which are really no more than regular daily exercise, are not just a gimmick.

Medical research has found that your daily step count, especially when taken over years, really can make a huge difference to your health and life expectancy. The Government's official statistics cite physical inactivity as responsible for one in six otherwise preventable deaths.

So how many steps do you need to achieve different levels of protection?

2,000 to 3,000 steps a day – or just over a mile. This can help reduce your risk of heart disease.

4,000 to 5,000 steps – can reduce risk of chronic disease and helps reduce risk of cognitive decline. (People who walked this far were found to have a 25 per cent lower risk of dementia.) As a scientist at the European University of Madrid, said: "This is likely because of improved blood flow to the brain, reduced brain inflammation, better metabolism of glucose in the brain, and an increase in beneficial brain chemicals which stimulate neuron growth."

7,000 to 8,000 steps, about three miles, can provide a 31 per cent lower risk of depression, and it can also lower your risk of cardiovascular disease by 51 per cent.

10,000 steps - about five miles, achieves a wide range of health benefits. But even just 8,800 steps a day has been found to reduce risk of premature death from many diseases by 60

As a scientist at the University of Sydney explained: "It's about setting initial targets that are achievable, and then gradually working your way up to more daily steps, as you build up your capacity to handle more activity."

Parish Pump

Why you need a holiday

They are more than an indulgence – a holiday can be vital for your health and mental well-being. Here are five reasons why:

Better sleep: after two or three days on holiday, most people average an hour more of good quality sleep. And deep sleep improves problem solving and cell repair.

More vitamin D: Our bodies make this in response to sunlight. It is important for bones

and immunity, but one in five of us are thought to be deficient.

Help your heart: Researchers at Syracuse University in New York found that those people with the lowest risk of heart disease had taken their full annual leave in the past year. Conversely, infrequent holidays led to a greater risk of coronary heart disease.

Reduce stress and get your energy back: As one doctor explains, living under stress “is like squirting steroids into your body every day”. Stress triggers the production of cortisol, which lowers your sex hormones and affects your thyroid. Your hair will thin and your energy decrease. For the best rest, take an occasional complete break from your work mobile and emails.

Time together – spend quality time with your nearest and dearest. Build some more happy memories. At the end of our lives, few of us look back and wish we had spent more time in the office.

Parish Pump

People who can't see should not drive!

So says a coroner, following a spate of four deaths caused by drivers who, in one case, could barely see his own steering wheel.

Dr James Adeley, the senior coroner for Lancashire, has said that letting motorists self-certify their fitness to drive is the ‘laxest system in Europe’, and is highly ineffective. And, until it is changed, road deaths will continue to be caused by drivers with failing eyesight.

Dr Adeley has sent a report to Heidi Alexander, the Transport Secretary, calling for action. He points out that the UK is one of only a handful of countries to use ‘self-reporting’ of any visual conditions that affect one’s ability to drive.

Dr Adeley said: “The current system for ‘ensuring drivers meet the visual legal standards is ineffective, unsafe and unfit to meet the needs of society.’”

The Department for Transport has responded: “The NHS recommends adults should have their eyes tested every two years and drivers are legally required to inform the DVLA if they have a condition which affects their eyesight.

Parish Pump

Kitchener and that poster from the First World War

Some 175 years ago, on 24th June 1850, Herbert Kitchener, the 1st Earl Kitchener, was born. This Irish-born British Army officer and politician became Secretary of War during the First World War, when he appeared on an iconic poster asking people to join the army.

Kitchener already had a fearsome reputation, having been responsible for big colonial victories in Sudan and South Africa. He was very widely admired by the British people, though his cool personality and eagerness to push his men to the limit made him disliked by fellow officers. But he was also described as a godly man “who did noble deeds and obtained noble results”.

He had been on leave in England in June 1914 when he reluctantly accepted an appointment to the Cabinet as Secretary of State for War and was promoted to Field Marshal. Most people expected a short war, but Kitchener did not; he went about enlisting a great number of volunteers – a campaign symbolised for most people by Alfred Leete’s poster using Kitchener’s own face with the slogan ‘*Your country needs you*’.

He organised British armies on a scale never seen before, but he was not to see victory. His life ended suddenly when he was drowned after the cruiser HMS Hampshire, taking him on a mission to Russia, was sunk in 1916 by a German mine. His body was never recovered, and the wreck is now a war grave. His death has been likened to the deaths of President Kennedy and Princess Diana – everyone remembered where they were when they heard the news.

A memorial fund launched by the Lord Mayor of London raised £500,000 to help war casualties and continues today. A Kitchener memorial was built by the people of Orkney on the cliff edge at Marwick Head.

Parish Pump

Why you should draw your curtains at night (especially if you live in the country)

Most of us draw our curtains at night, in order to ensure privacy. But there is another very valid reason: to help protect local wildlife.

It seems that insects who live in the countryside are very susceptible to bright lights, which can badly disrupt their overall health and general behaviour.

As one scientist explained: “We don’t know exactly how fatal it is, but one estimate is that 33 per cent of all the insects attracted to light die before morning. And even if they don’t die, they’re spending all their time at the light instead of doing the things they’re supposed to be doing.”

Light pollution is now seen as adding to what some scientists have called “insect Armageddon”, with a 75 per cent decline in insect populations in 30 years. As one scientist said: “Small individual actions such as drawing curtains can make a big impact to our smallest creatures.”



Messy Church !



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

Friday 6th June
Friday 4th July
Friday 5th September

from 3 pm to 5.30 pm

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

CITY

Churches In Tiptree Youth



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

Fridays, Term Time, 7pm – 8:45pm

@ Tiptree URC, Chapel Road

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

£1 per week, first session FREE

Want to know more?

Contact: andy@typo.uk.net



CITY CITY CITY CITY

Churches In Tiptree Youth

Progress on Restoring the Hatchment of Messing Church

The five funerary hatchments that have been hanging in the Church from 1679/1737 to the present day have finally been granted a faculty for removal and restoration. This is the culmination of the first stage of our campaign to save them. The hatchments are now with a conservator, where they will be fully assessed and a report written on each one for the restoration program to start. We already have full heraldic reports and the ancestral mapping of the family represented through these ancient artefacts.

If you are interested in following the progress as they are renovated and eventually returned, please contact the Parochial Church Council or Friends of Messing Church.

The photograph gives an indication of what the hatchments might look like after restoration.



FROM THE PAST

46 years ago, in February 1979, the interior of St. Luke's looked like this. The scaffolding was erected to facilitate the painting of the church. The barrel roof was painted by specialist contractors while the rest were done by church members and volunteers. The total cost was £3,900 (around £19,000 today) and took around a month to complete.

Over the page is an extract from the Essex County Standard of 9 February 1979 together with a picture that appeared, see who you can recognize!!

One obvious thing is how health and safety has changed. Not a hard hat or Hi Viz vest in sight.



Pictures by Norman Eastbrook MBE





● Among the volunteers helping to give their church a facelift are Brian Wood, Brian Southerwood, Julian Wyncoll, George Ramber, Richard Adams and Frank Lepoidevin.

Essex County Standard - February 9, 1979

TIP TREE'S St Luke's Church is getting a much-needed facelift, thanks to a small army of volunteers from the congregation.

The group started work in the 120-year-old church on Saturday, cleaning up the walls and pillars and then giving them a good coat of paint.

Sunday's weekly communion service was held amid the scaffolding poles and planks, which will be in the church for the next month while the work is being carried out.

Although the redecoration of the high barrel roof is being carried out by a firm of contractors from Birch, the church has undertaken to do the work on the more accessible parts of the church itself.

"Everyone has rallied round to help us amazingly well," said the vicar, the Rev Timothy Thompson.

"It will mean that this work — which was last done 23 years ago — will be carried out at a cost to us of only £3,900."

The Nicene Creed: Who is God?

Canon Paul Hardingham

'We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.'

2025 sees the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. We use it at Communion services, but how much notice do we take of the words? In this new series we are looking at what it means to believe in God as Trinity.

We believe: In Greek, the Creed begins *'we believe'* (in Latin, *'I believe.'*). It was formulated at the time of Arius, who declared that Jesus was the first and greatest of God's creatures, but not the same as God the Father. His teaching proved so damaging that the Emperor Constantine called an ecumenical council in Nicaea (AD 325) to clarify the core beliefs for all Christians.

in one God: We believe in a God who is both one and Trinity: *'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one'* (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is the Old Testament God, who we know through the life and work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are to worship Him alone and not people or things.

the Father, the Almighty: God is both the almighty Creator and loving Father: *'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name'* (Matt 6:9). Although the Father of all that exists, He is specifically Father to those who are His children through their faith in Jesus.

maker of heaven and earth: God comes before anything that was created, and Creation is His alone: *'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty'* (Genesis 1:1,2). The implication is that He created *'ex nihilo'* ie out of nothing. He is one God who is unchangeable, lacking in nothing and the source of all that exists.

of all that is, seen and unseen: God did not just create the physical universe, but also the spiritual powers: *'For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.'* (Colossians 1:16). Reality is more than what we can see, smell, taste, touch or measure.

The Creed establishes the 'big picture' of who God is and challenges our commitment to Him. *How do these opening words of the Nicene Creed speak to us today?*

Parish Pump

Smile

Children's parties

The main benefit of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children out there who are more awful than your own.

Why you should be careful

The owner of a new sports car was reluctant to allow his wife drive it, even to the local shops. After she insisted, he finally relented, cautioning her as she departed, "Remember, if you have an accident, the newspaper will print your age!"

Some perks of getting old

There is nothing left to learn the hard way.

Things you buy now won't wear out.

You can eat supper at 4 pm.

You get into heated arguments about pension plans.

You can sing along with lift music.

Your eyes won't get much worse.

Your secrets are safe with your friends - because they can't remember them either.

Aspirin

Had a slight headache this morning but felt much better after following the instructions on the aspirin bottle: 'Take two and keep away from children.'

Sweets

I gave my four-year-old grand-daughter money for sweets and the church collection plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she hadn't also given some money to God in church that morning. "No," she replied sweetly, "He wasn't there."

Economy

The vicar asked a member of his congregation, a banker, why he seemed a bit down. The banker replied: "I'm a walking economy! My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and both of these together are putting me into a deep depression."

Good quote

A certain bishop had a fondness for using Bible quotations whenever he visited a function. When he arrived to open a new Maternity Home the organisers thought: "Now we have him stumped." However, after a few well-chosen words, the bishop smiled and said: "I know you are waiting for a quotation, so here it is: 'We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed!'"



Baptisms

30 March	Althea Clark	Great Braxted
6 April	Violet Moore	Tiptree
13 April	Billy Konsta	Great Braxted

Weddings

14 March	Dominic Slater & Chloe Williams	Great Braxted
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Funerals

24 April	Helen Rand	Messing
1 May	Donald Clough	St Luke's
9 May	Patricia Guerrier	St Luke's

Real responses to school science exam questions:

- Genetics explains why you look like your father, and if you don't, why you should.
- The cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of the things people forget to put the top on.
- Water vapor gets together in a cloud. When it is big enough to be called a drop, it does.
- Mushrooms always grow in damp places, which is why they look like umbrellas.
- Momentum is something you give a person when they go away.
- A monsoon is a French gentleman.
- The word 'trousers' is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.
- To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.
- When planets run around and around in circles, we say they are orbiting. When people do it, we say they are crazy.
- For asphyxiation, apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.
- Thunder is a rich source of loudness.

Books of the Bible

Canon Paul Hardingham

Ecclesiastes

‘Meaningless! Meaningless!’ This is how the book of Ecclesiastes begins (1:2), as it examines the futility of human experience *‘under the sun’*. The author is named as *‘The Teacher’* (1:1, Hebrew *qoheleth*), traditionally identified with King Solomon. Although focusing on life in the physical world, the book ends with, *‘Fear God and keep his commandments’* (12:13).

Ecclesiastes reminds us of the limitation of human wisdom, which cannot find meaning and purpose without God:

Our strivings *‘under the sun’* can only lead to disillusionment (1:5–11). Therefore, we need to accept the life God gives us and enjoy it to the full.

Wisdom is given to those who please God (2:26). Such wisdom cannot solve all problems (1:16–18), or secure enduring reward (2:12–17). We cannot control our immediate future, resulting in uncertainty (6:12), and there are difficult questions about life and death itself (9:1–3). In response, we need to understand our human limitations before God.

God has ordered all things in their time; things we cannot change or fully anticipate: *‘There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven’* (3:1–15).

However, the world is not fundamentally chaotic or irrational, as it is ordered by God: *‘He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.’* (3:11). We should remember our Creator when we are young before the infirmities of advanced age stop us from enjoying the good things of life (12: 1-8).

In summary, Ecclesiastes shows us how to live meaningfully and joyfully by placing God at the centre of our life, while trusting and obeying our Creator.

Parish Pump

The Venerable Bede – the father of English history

Tim Lenton looks back on the man who gave us ‘Anno Domini’.

1300 years ago, on 26th May 725, the Venerable Bede died. This English Benedictine monk, historian, linguist and teacher is known as “the father of English history.” He helped to popularise the idea of dating years from the birth of Christ (Anno Domini – AD).

Bede was certainly born into a well-to-do family, but we have no details except that he

was sent to a monastery – Monkwearmouth in Northumbria – at the age of seven. He later moved on to Jarrow under the tutelage of Abbot Ceolfrith, both of them surviving the devastating plague of 686.

He was never a great traveller, preferring to spend most of his life studying and writing in Northumbria, except for visits to Lindisfarne and York. He completed about 60 books, most of which have survived. Not surprisingly, he was considered the most learned man of his time.

Bede was ordained a deacon at the early age of 19 and became a priest when he was 30. He was known for his devotion to prayer, for studying the Scriptures and for his faithful observation of the monastic discipline. His most famous work is the *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (*Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum*), which is widely relied on as historical source material.

He was particularly interested in the academic discipline of computus – the science of calculating calendar dates, particularly, and controversially, the date of Easter. The word ‘computer’ stems from this work. Bede was also a skilled translator, and he made the writings of the early Church Fathers accessible to the English people.

Bede died at the age of 61 or 62 at Jarrow and was buried there, but his remains were later moved to Durham Cathedral. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1899.

Parish Pump

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On what security cameras in church will tell you

From The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Much against my better judgement, after a recent series of small thefts, we have installed security cameras here at St James the Least of All. Thank goodness the suggestion for trip wires that opened the gate to Mrs Poppleroy's garden next door, thereby setting loose her deranged Pekingese, was narrowly defeated – though I had to use my casting vote.

So now we have a complete record of everything that goes on when no one is about. It makes such interesting viewing that I have cancelled my television licence and spend every evening watching the antics of my parishioners. I wonder if there is some niche television channel which would be interested; it could help the tower restoration fund no end.

Miss Margison seems to imagine she is now part of some theatrical performance every time she cleans the church; her body language as she wields a feather duster is of operatic proportions, as is her final bow to the cameras as she leaves.

I have at last found the several hiding places where Mr Prentice secretes his bottle of whisky every week when he comes to wind the tower clock.

Colonel Wainwright, who served for some time in the security services, is now worried that photographs of him cleaning the brass will be circulated in Russia. He fails to appreciate that his disguise as a French onion seller, with striped jersey, beret and waxed moustache does tend to make his presence rather more interesting than he imagines – to us, if not to the KGB.

The flower arrangers seem to imagine that we are recording sound as well as pictures and so whenever they are in church together, all gossip is written down and passed round by hand as they work in total silence. So far, they have remembered to take their pieces of paper home with them. One slip and I shall probably learn more about my parishioners in five minutes than I have done in the last five years.

The cameras have also solved the mystery of who has been pilfering the items - and even the nest where they have hidden it. If only I could teach the magpies to extract money from pockets and place it on the collection plate.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



All Saints' Church, Gt Braxted, CM8 3EN

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

Services for 2025:

20th April 11.15 am Easter Day Parish Communion

1st Sunday of each month at 11.15 am, Family Service:

4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 3rd August, 7th September &

5th October

Our usual pattern of services continues until October, with Family Service suitable for all ages on the first Sunday of the month.

Sunday 21st December 11.15 am Carol Service

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

For any enquiries please telephone Revd Anne-Marie Renshaw, 01621 815260 amlrenshaw@btinternet.com

or, contact our Team Administrator, Christine Hall

thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com

All in the month of June

It was

90 years ago, on 1st June 1935, that driving tests became compulsory for all new drivers in Britain.

50 years ago, on 7th June 1975, that the first Cricket World Cup to be held in England began.

500 years ago, on 13th June 1525, that German Protestant Reformer Martin Luther married Katharina von Bora, a nun whom he had helped to escape from a convent.

50 years ago, on 18th June 1975, that the first North Sea oil was pumped ashore to Britain.

175 years ago, on 24th June 1850, that Herbert Kitchener, the 1st Earl Kitchener, was born. This Irish-born British Army officer and politician became Secretary of War during WW1, when he appeared on an iconic poster asking people to join the army. He was killed in 1916 when his ship was hit by a German mine.

125 years ago, on 25th June 1900, that Louis Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, was born. He became Governor-General of India (1947-48), First Sea Lord (1955-59), and Chief of the Defence Staff (1959-65). Assassinated in 1979 by an IRA bomb planted on his fishing boat.

All in the month of July

It was

490 years ago, on 6th July 1535 that Sir Thomas More, former favourite of Henry VIII, was executed after refusing to recognise the King as the head of the Church.

85 years ago, on 10th July 1940, that the Battle of Britain began.

105 years ago, on 18th July 1920, that 750,000 war dead are commemorated with the unveiling of a new national monument in Whitehall, London. The Cenotaph takes its name from the Greek words *kenos* and *taphos* meaning empty tomb.

480 years ago, on 19th July 1545 that King Henry VIII looks on as his newly refitted flagship the *Mary Rose* sinks in the Solent, off England's south coast, with the loss of 700 lives.

85 years ago, on 23rd July 1940, that the Local Defence Volunteers became the Home Guard

Wordsearch

The story of Pentecost is found in Acts 2. After the Ascension of Jesus, the disciples had obeyed His command to stay in Jerusalem and to 'wait for the promise from the Father'. Jesus said this would be the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit', but the disciples had no idea what that meant. They soon found out! Acts tells us that at about 9 o'clock one morning, a sound like a rushing wind from heaven suddenly filled the house, and divided tongues as if of fire rested on each one of them. The Holy Spirit had come down and filled them with His divine power! Praise, preaching and witnessing followed that morning – and the Church was born.



Pentecost	Tongues	Languages	Morning	Father
Trinity	Power	Praise	Glory	Son
Jerusalem	High	Drunk	Waiting	Holy
Disciples	Fires	Wine	Place	Spirit
Praying	Flames	Nine	Wind	Eternal



On Saturday 5th July at 7:30pm, Tiptree Choral Society, under Musical Director Malcolm Boulter and accompanied by David Leveridge, will perform Handel's 'Coronation Anthems' and Mendelssohn's 'Hymn of Praise'. The choir will be joined by soloists Claire Pendleton and Michael Savage.

The Coronation Anthems were written in 1727 for the coronation of George II and Queen Caroline, though the texts chosen by Handel go back even further to the coronation of James II in 1685. One of these anthems, the stirring 'Zadok the Priest', has been sung at every coronation since 1727.

The choral section of Mendelssohn's 2nd symphony, 'Hymn of Praise' contains the well-known chorale 'Now thank we all our God', a favourite tune of Mendelssohn's. The 'symphony-cantata' was written in 1840 in praise of and thanksgiving for the Creator - *"But I would see all the arts, especially music, in the service of Him who gave and created them."*

Come along to **St Luke's Church, Tiptree CO5 0SU** and enjoy these beautiful, familiar works. There will be a raffle (£1 a strip) in support of Society funds and free refreshments (donations appreciated if you are able). Programmes will be available at the cost of £1 each.

Tickets are available online at tiptreechoral.uk and on the door. Adults £15, students £5, accompanied children under 16 free.

Parish revitalisations and rural areas to receiving funding for mission

Parish revitalisations, work with children, young people and families and training for mission in rural areas are among a range of programmes to spread the Christian faith backed by the latest round of grants awarded by the Church of England.

The Dioceses of Carlisle, Chelmsford, Rochester, Sheffield, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and Winchester are to receive awards for programmes to support parishes and serve communities, ranging from funding for new congregations in churches to funding for clergy and lay workers in urban and rural areas.

The awards, made by the Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) invest in low-income communities and seek to promote diversity in congregations and church leadership.

Parish Pump

Do you need legal advice?

Age Well East, in partnership with John Fowlers Solicitors, are hosting a monthly FREE LEGAL CLINIC.

By appointment only as spaces are limited.

Clients usually have 1 hour to explain the issue and receive basic advice on the next steps to take.

Clients must be aged 60 years+.

Dates and times vary.

Location: John Fowlers Solicitors,
1 West Stockwell Street, Colchester

Call us to find out more.

0300 37 33 333

Are bananas really good for you?

On the one hand, bananas offer good things. They count as one of your five a day, carry only about 90 calories, and are packed with the essential mineral potassium (good in lowering blood pressure.) But they are not perfect...

So, here are some pros and cons of bananas:

Pro: High in potassium, good for heart health, lowers blood pressure, has Vitamin C, helps digestion, provides energy, full of fibre, cholesterol-free.

Cons: Can raise potassium levels too much (avoid them if you have kidney disease), can lead to wind and bloating, cause blood sugar spikes, weight gain, and disrupt sleep.

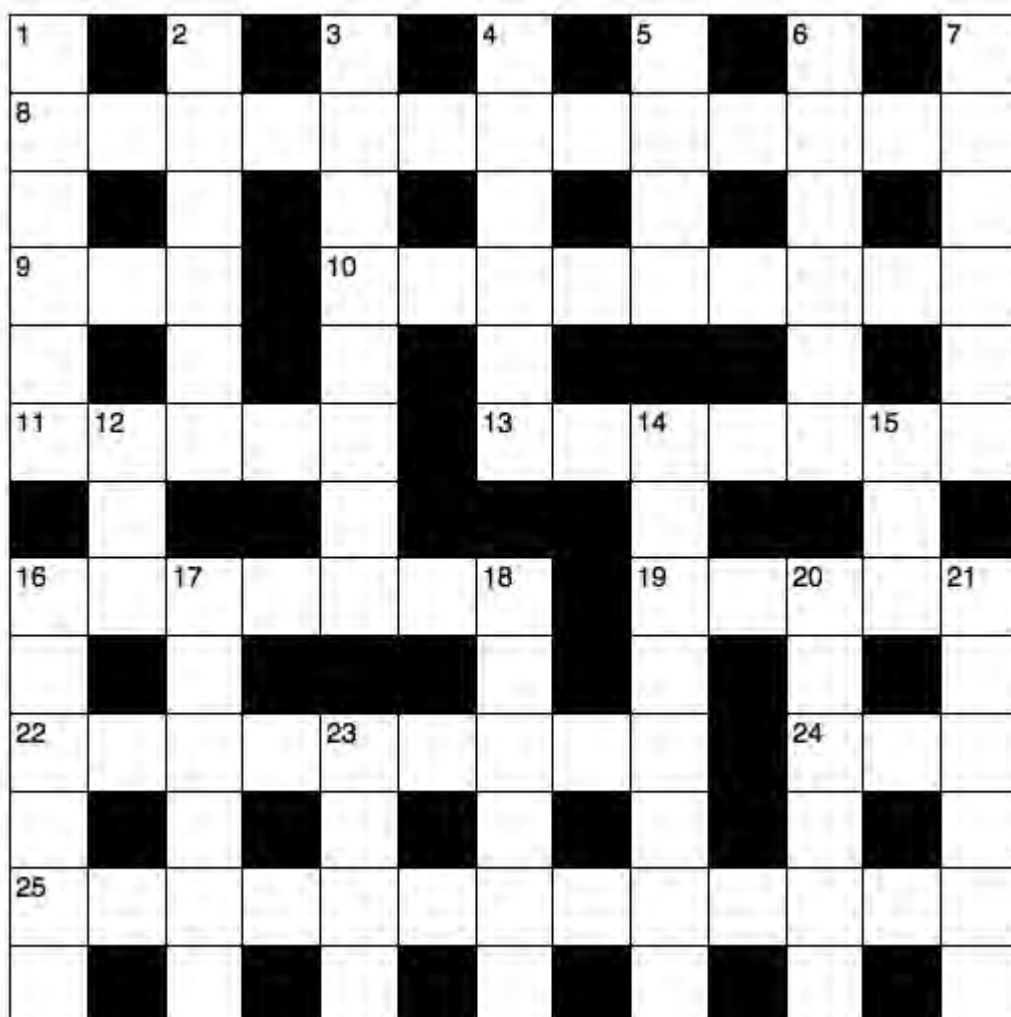
Overall, experts recommend eating no more than two bananas a day.



The Fabric Team recently erected a shed donated by Sheila Gunson to house equipment in the back of the Rectory garden. Here are some pictures of their work.



Crossword



Across

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
- 9 In favour of (3)
- 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
- 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
- 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
- 16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)
- 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
- 22 Holy Communion (9)
- 24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
- 25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)
- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
- 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
- 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set ___ ___' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
- 12 Ate (anag.) (3)
- 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
- 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
- 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
- 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
- 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
- 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
- 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
- 23 Diva (anag.) (4)

Tiptree Guild of Beer and Wine Makers

Tiptree Tipplers



Meeting here every 3rd Wednesday
7.30pm for 8.00pm

A fun night out in a friendly atmosphere
Themed nights – see list

Why not come along & give us a try- no commitment
New members always welcomed
Annual membership only £35 with no entrance fee.

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



Our events for 2025 are –

Jan 15th – Wine Roulette
Feb 19th – Non Alcoholic beer discussion
Mar 19th– Scones & Bread Competition
+ Quiz
Apr 16th - Cheese/Port/Chocolate Tasting
May 21st – Games Night + Pizza £3
June 18th - Wine Competition + Quiz

July 16th – Summer Trip TBA
Aug 20th – Wine Talk &
Ploughman's
Sept 17th- Beer/Chutney
Comp.
Oct 15th - AGM & Hot Dogs £3
Nov 19th – Talk
Dec 17th - Christmas Party



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

Theology and Action for God's Creation

17 June 2025 in Chelmsford Cathedral

A key part of Christian mission is caring for God's Creation. But how does our faith relate to our current environmental crises? Are we stewards of creation or much more? Does the earth need protecting? What practical action can we take?

5:15pm Evensong with a Creation theme

Celebrating the Diocese's Environmental Network past and present including Deanery Environmental Advocates, and parish Eco links.

6:00pm Stalls and locally produced refreshments

A chance to learn about what churches in the Diocese are doing, including some of our Bronze, Silver, and Gold, Eco churches.

6:30pm "Theology and Action for God's Creation"



Rev Dr Dave Bookless

Head of Theology at A Rocha International and author of "Planetwise" and "God Doesn't do Waste"



Jo Herbert-James

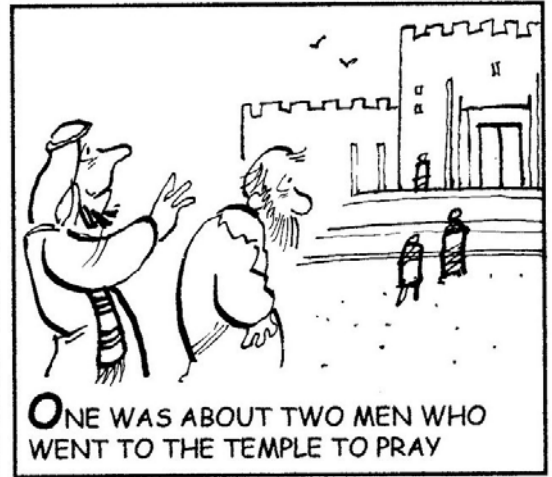
Head of Engagement at A Rocha UK

Everyone is welcome to this event for all or part of the evening.

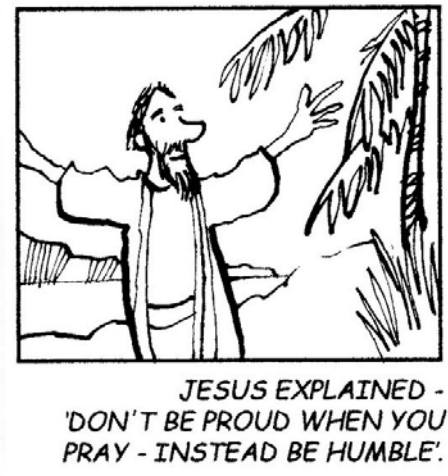
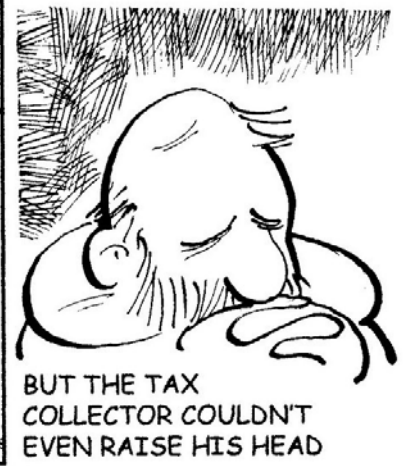
www.chelmsford.anglican.org/environment



The
Tale of the
**TWO MEN
SAYING
THEIR
PRAYERS**



**THE OTHER WAS A TAX
COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR
MAN IN JESUS' DAY!).**



St Luke's Ladies Group

16 June Annual General Meeting + Susie Sings

17 July Goat Soap - Irene Varnett

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



**ST LUKE'S
LADIES GROUP
TIPTREE**



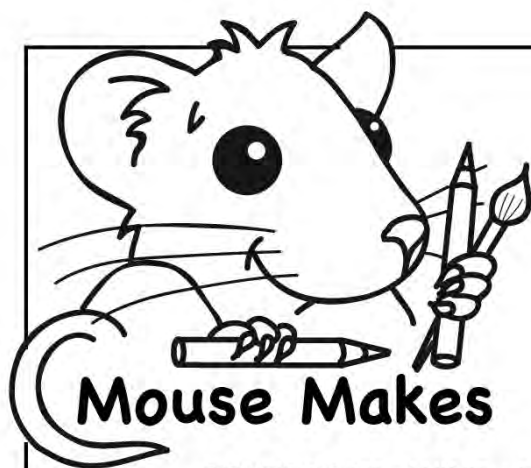
Keeping the county warm



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 ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD



READ
 Acts
 2:1-41

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

It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

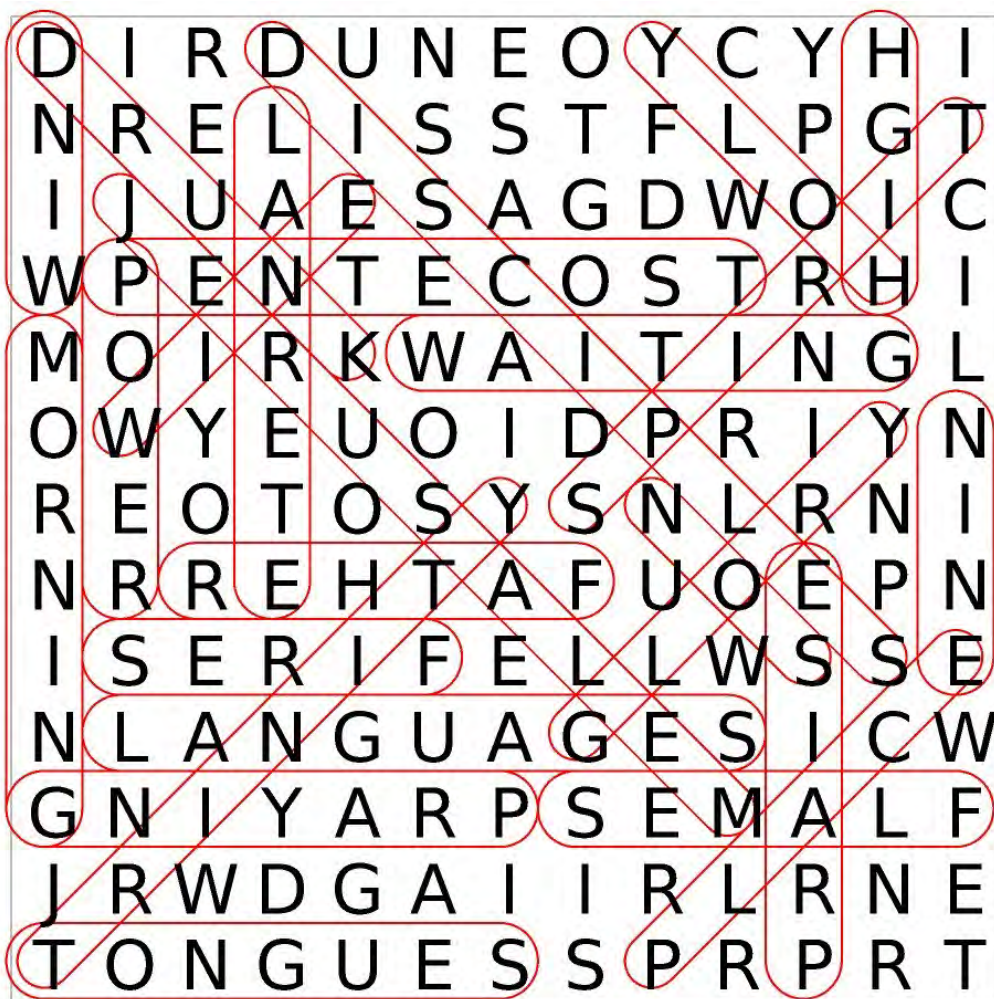
The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

Solutions:





Holy Spirit,
sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children
with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with
the breath of love, and
renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Paul Judson

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