



February
2026

Stratton Team Ministry
Seeking, Sharing, and Serving God Together
www.strattonteamministry.co.uk



**Love is patient;
love is kind;
love is not
envious
or boastful
or arrogant.**

1 Corinthians 13: 4

STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY

Rector: Reverend Elveen Mead [Usual Day off Friday]

Curate: Reverend Charlotte Stansfield [Usual Day off Friday]

Lay Minister: Lisa Lodwick
Alison Burston
Dan Read

Church Administrator Georgina Martin 826505
Email: stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

St. Margaret's Church and St Mary Magdalene Church

Mrs June Lewis 822954
Mr Ian Jones 07769703385
Mrs Diane Whitford 824339

Deputy Wardens

Mr David Horne 07717447855
Mr Richard Pflieger 828367

St Leonards Church

Mrs Liz Hillman 762935
Mr Chris Pope

Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers & DBS Lead Recruiters

Dr Mike Boshier 07799835437
Mrs Mary Boshier

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL for St. Margaret's and St Mary Magdalene

Mrs Rosalind Mitchell (Secretary) 764146
Mrs Diane Whitford
(Deputy Secretary of St Mary Magdalene) 824339

St Leonards

Mr Michael Curtis
(PCC secretary St Leonards)

LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Stratton Methodist Church, 829335
St Mary's R C Church, The Presbytery, Swindon 535089

Dear Friends

What a month February is going to be! Having only just recovered from Christmas we are straight into Ash Wednesday and Lent. However, before we look forward, let's go back a bit, in January we had a shared service with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ from Stratton Methodist Church. St Margaret's Church and the Methodist Church have a long history of coming together to worship and it's something we hope will continue long into the future. The January service was to celebrate Christian Unity Week. In a world that continues to become more divided it seems, opportunities like this become even more important. There is more that we share in common, than what divides us and this is true for both for Christians and Humanity as a whole. We all laugh, we all cry, we all love, we all grieve, and we all bleed.

Yet it seems that the world is becoming a place where we no longer offer dignity and respect to those who are 'different' to us. Those who don't agree with our politics, world views, or religion, those who look different to us, those who speak another language. Them, the others. We are encouraged to think of the poor as freeloaders and the refugees as illegal migrants and some may be, but many aren't. You get the picture, as soon as a difference is pointed out then we can other them, and when we do that, we then go on to view them as of lower value than ourselves. This of course at it's worst, can lead to genocide as history has shown. If like me you watch the news with dismay and increasing anxiety then I want to offer you this. A week or so ago I came across some sources offering hope and comfort.

From a contemporary poet I am a fan of, Donna Ashworth wrote in her book Wild Hope:

'When bad things are happening in the world, it's common to feel helpless. There is much wrong and so little to be done. But remember, everything exists in energy. Your intentions matter. Set kindness as your focus, in your little corner of the world. It makes ripples you see, ripples are contagious, they grow into waves, and waves can move mountains. Your kindness, your care, your hope, has weight. Send it out. Send it out. Each time you wish a stranger safe, I believe the universe hears.'

John the Baptist reminds us who Jesus is when he says 'look the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'

The Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was eventually killed by the Nazis for speaking out against their regime. He was accused of plotting to kill Hitler and hanged.

I am in awe at his courage to carry on and strength of his faith, how many times must he have cried out to God in dismay at what was happening? Yet he remained faithful to God and wrote these words in his book *God is in the Manger*, reflections on advent and Christmas:

'Look up, you whose gaze is fixed on this earth....

Look up to these words, you who have turned away from heaven disappointed.

Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are heavy and who are crying....

Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes.

Look up, your redemption is drawing near...

Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment.

Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come.'

We are in uncertain times, it's like 'the world's gone mad' yet I urge you my brothers and sisters to trust God, hold on to your faith. We can pray, we can do good, we can share the love of Christ and we can be a people of peace.

I want to end with a prayer from a daily prayer app that I use, *Lectio 365*

'Jesus where my eyes are distant, distracted, or distressed today, help me to look up. To fix my gaze on you, the lamb of God, my hope and my deliverer. Amen'

Blessings

Reverend Elveen



February



1st February

St Margaret's Church	St Leonard's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church
9:30am	9:30am	10am
Holy Communion Service	Sunday Morning Worship	All Age Worship

8th February

St Margaret's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church	St Leonard's Church
9:30am	9:30am	11am
Sunday Morning Worship	Holy Communion Service	Family Service

15th February

St Margaret's Church	10am	Team Service
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18th February

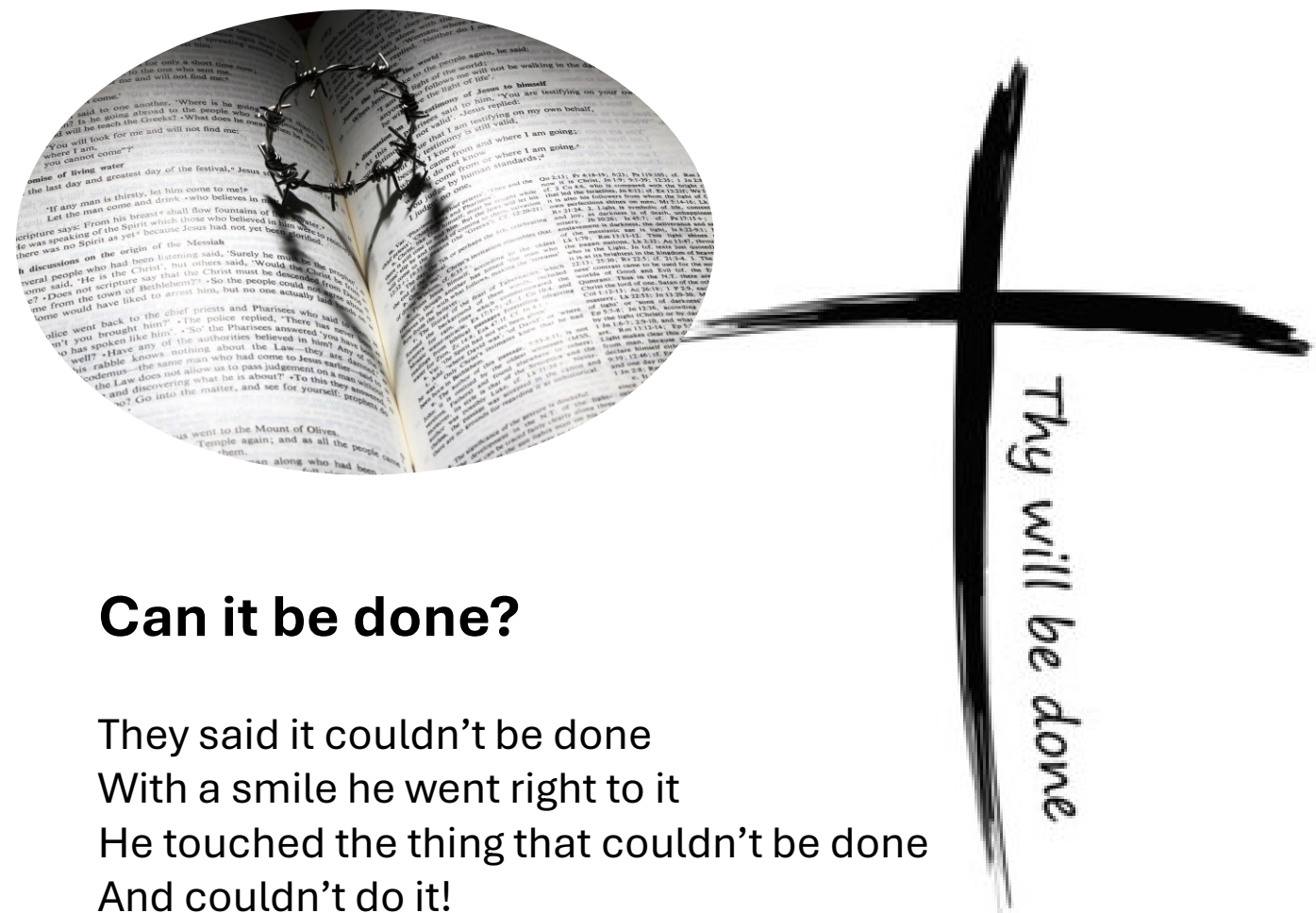
St Margaret's Church	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service
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22nd February

St Margaret's Church	St Leonard's Church	Coleview Community Centre
9:30am	9:30am	11am
Sunday Morning Worship	Holy Communion Service	Holy Communion Service

Please see our website for the most up to date information www.strattonteamministry.co.uk

We will endeavor to give as much notice as possible to any changes but that may not always be possible



Can it be done?

They said it couldn't be done
With a smile he went right to it
He touched the thing that couldn't be done
And couldn't do it!

How true this is of so much in life and at times we feel despair when life's problems assail us. In times such as these our Faith leads us to prayer and to trust in God, for only He can put right those things that 'can't be done'.

Perhaps, sometime later our prayers appear to have not been met, has our Faith deserted us? Of course not! Mature reflection shows that whilst we may not have received that which we wanted, we have indeed received that which we needed. A play on word perhaps? No, for God never fails us, let us keep the Faith, for 'It can be done!!'

Colin Howell



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH



Friday February 13th 7pm



Kentwood

The choir with a difference



Drinks &
Refreshments
available



Tickets £15pp

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, SN3 4NB

Proceeds in aid of St Margaret's Church Tower Roof Fund

Further details can be found online scan QR code below or visit









strattonteamministry.co.uk



[strattonteamministry](https://www.facebook.com/strattonteamministry)

Upcoming Events



 Easter Egg Hunt	28th March
 Quiz night	10th April
 Summer Garden Party	5th July
 Beer Festival	11th-12th September
 1920's Murder Mystery	30th October
 Thamesdown Choir	12th December

For More Information keep a watch on our Website, Facebook or sign up for our weekly notice sheet.



01793 826505



stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com



Websites: www.strattonteamministry.co.uk



Facebook: @StrattonTeamMinistry



A date for your diaries, our next Fun Quiz Night

Friday, 10 April 6:45pm for a 7pm sharp start.

We will have the usual excellent choice of beef or veggie chilli with rice plus a few nibbles and some soft drinks.

Please put the date in your diaries, tickets £12 per head, teams max 6 players, food, soft drink and your first drink on the night are included in the price. We will have a selection of alcoholic drinks available on the night, your first drink included.

More details to follow but please start sorting out your teams for an evening of fun, food, fellowship and a bit of much needed fund raising towards the church roof fund.

ANY UNWANTED CHRISTMAS GIFTS??

We will be holding a raffle at our next quiz night on 10 April and if you have any unwanted gifts you would like to donate towards our fund-raising efforts, please could you give them to Russ, ideally ahead of the event to save overdoing it on the night, with grateful thanks in anticipation.

Russ 07789250121

150 years

"Join us, Join in!"

Mothers' Union Swindon Deanery Branch

Our February meeting will be on Friday 13th

It will be in St Margaret's Centre at 2.30pm

and it will be our AGM.

Everyone is welcome

Do come and join us.

For more info, visit the Bristol MU website

www.mubristol.co.uk



www.mothersunion.org

Stopping Violence
Stopping Poverty
Stopping Injustice

Weekly Prayers for January

Theme – The selfless love of Christ

Reflection for – The selfless love of Christ

God proves His love to us in that whilst we were sinners Christ died for us.

God came to us as man, in Jesus, and gave Himself for each and every one of us.

Jesus never asked for anything from us, except for us to love one another.

Do we do that?

Monday – believe in Him

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life..." John 3:16

God of love – we thank you for your universal and limitless love. Strengthen our belief and faith as Christians. We strive to serve you and to make you known where you are not. We pray for those who do not know you and need to hear that you love them.

Lord, in your mercy – hear our prayers.

We pray that they will experience your love, feel your presence and hear your Word.

Lord, in your mercy – hear our prayers.

Tuesday – boundless Love

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” John 15:13

His love for us is selfless and boundless. Jesus laid down His own life for His friends and our sins.

By loving one another as He loves us, we can learn how to lay down our lives, not literally, but in the service of others.

Dear Lord - help us feel your presence and let it provide the courage we need to help those experiencing challenges and trauma in their lives.

Thank you for giving us Your Son so that we can honour Him in all that we do.

Amen

Wednesday – your gift

Generous Lord – you created us. Help us to try and follow Your Love and Light.

Help us to follow those who faithfully step up and speak out to empower women and girls helping them to fight for gender equality and rights.

We pray for the Christian Church and all its members, that now gloriously inhabit the rest of Your world.

Thank you for sharing and showing us Your selfless love and we thank you for all the courageous and loving members of your church.

Amen

Thursday – in Service

“It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
Matthew 20:26-28

Lord Jesus Christ – we seek to be servants and honour Your style of leadership, bringing change through service. We aim to prioritise the needs of others, the vulnerable, the anxious, those suffering trauma, violence and poverty and demonstrate to You, sacrificial love.

We pray for All Your Children who work throughout Your world, through charities, churches, communities and individual acts of service. May they continue in courage and strength. We remind them that they are not alone.

Amen

Friday – Compassion

As You are the ultimate compassionate God, who sacrificed His son to free us from sin, we pray for compassion in the troubled places in the world.

Compassionate Lord - We pray for those who make decisions in our world, that they are guided to act compassionately where innocent men, women and children are at risk of conflict, war, starvation, and homelessness.

Saturday – reaffirm our Calling to serve

Lord Jesus Christ – as you gently restored Peter, who failed you profoundly, you demonstrated God’s mercy and brought him back to selfless love and service.

We pray that when we fail, and we will, that we too will be restored and serve again.

Final Blessing Prayer

Loving Lord, we thank You for the endless and selfless love that You have given to us.

We know that every one of Your children is known by You and loved by You, no matter what.

We give thanks for the example of love we see in You.

Let those that do not know Your love or those that have not experienced love as a person should, feel Your presence, hear Your word, and know Your presence, now and always.

Amen

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that the word 'Tilt' (v) has another meaning?

As a noun it means the canvas cover seen at the back of lorries and pickupsand now you know!



Did you know that snooker originated in India during the 19th century?

It was played by army officers as a spin off from billiardsand now you know!



Did you know that during World War 2 the ration for eggs was one per person per week?

In 1942 dried eggs became available under Lease-Lend. The tins contained the equivalent of 12 whole eggs and were rationed at one tin per ration book each two months. Useful in cooking there was no chance of a boiled or fried egg but as a child I remember the occasional omelette and now you know!

jokes

A few shaggy dog stories:

190,000,006 years ago, at the beginning of the Jurassic period children loved to hop onto the back of a Friendly Stegosaurus whose distinctive high arched body reached twenty feet. One day, to his parents' horror a toddler leaped off a precipice, oblivious to the fact that seconds before, the great beast had lumbered off. "Poor kid" said his father shaking his head "he hasn't got a Steg to land on."



One day a woman with an elephant walks into a cinema. "I'm afraid I can't let your elephant in here madam" the manager says, "Oh I assure you he's very well behaved," the woman says. "All right then" the manager says, "if you're sure-----" After the movie the manager says to the woman, "I'm very surprised! Your elephant was well behaved, and he even seemed to enjoy the movie." "Yes, I was surprised too" says the woman, "He hated the book."

Three friends are in the middle of a desert when their car breaks down, for their hike to town, they each decide to take one thing with them. One friend takes a jug of water. The second friend takes a sandwich. The last friend takes one of the car doors, The first friend says to the last one, " I'm bringing the water because if I get thirsty, I can take a drink, and it makes sense to bring a sandwich in case we get hungry but why bring a car door?" the last friend replies "If I get hot, I can just roll down the windows."



Have you heard the one about the tribe of Basques who lived in this valley? They heard that barbarian hords were approaching, so they decided to lay a trap. They all waited in the hills at the entrance to the valley. When the barbarians passed by, they descended on them. Unfortunately, the barbarians had a lot more experience at warfare than the Basques did and the Basques got slaughtered. The moral: Don't put all your Basques in one exit....

There is the story of a group of chess enthusiasts, good friends all, who had a long day of chess matches. Late in the evening these friends went to the lobby of the large hotel where the matches were held, to talk a bit and rest. While their chat began quietly it gathered steam and got quite animated. They were telling each other of their successes of the day. One said he had won so many matches, another told of how he had beaten better players than himself. After a while of this, the hotel manager came over and summarily threw them all out saying, 'I can't abide chess nuts boasting in an open foyer.'

A few short jokes to end with:

- 👉 How do you organise a space. themed party? Nou planet
- 👉 Why do pancakes always win at cricket? They have the best batter.
- 👉 Why shouldn't you use a broken pencil? Because its point-less.
- 👉 Why couldn't the sailor learn the alphabet? He kept getting lost at C.
- 👉 Why do barbers make good drivers? They know a lot of short cuts.
- 👉 Why can't your nose be 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot.
- 👉 I ate a clock yesterday. It was very time consuming.
- 👉 Did you hear about the people who stole a calendar. They each got 6 months.
- 👉 What do you call a sleeping bull? A bulldozer.



Stratton
Team Ministry

Everyone Welcome

**St Margaret's Church Stratton
Hosts Coffee Morning
at**

St Margaret's Centre

Every Thursday

9:30am - 11:30am

Tea also available

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH SOUTH MARSTON

Welcomes you to a Community Coffee Morning



Just drop in

Come and Join Us for Refreshments
(including bacon butties and delicious cakes)

In the Village Hall

10 - 12

Every third Saturday in the month

Next Date 21st February

Enquiries or for tabletop sales please call

01793 824339



St Leonard's Church Stanton

Hosts Coffee Morning now at
Stanton House Hotel

10:15am - noon

On the 3rd Wednesday

Of the month

Everyone Welcome



25th February

Alison Boshier

A woman in a man's world

**St Mary Magdalene
Church
South Marston**

**Invite you for
All Age Worship**

**10am Every First Sunday
of the month**



Celebrating 200 years of Methodism in Stratton

St Margaret

24° April - 26* April 2026

at Stratton Methodist Church, Ermin Street



- History display (open Friday evening, Saturday all day).
• Beetle Drive Friday 24th April @ 7pm- fun for all the family.
Refreshments will be served.
- Saturday 25th April 10am - midday. Craft workshops for all the family, with refreshments. Come and try something new!
- Saturday 25 April 4-5.30pm. Cream Teas accompanied by organ music with Christopher and Berkley Hill.
- Saturday 25t April 6.30pm Celebration Concert with Good Afternoon Choir, The Big Sing Thing and more organ music.
- Sunday 26 April 10.30am. Morning worship with our friends from St Margaret's Parish Church and celebrating our heritage.

There will be no charge for any events.

Donations will be taken for the work of the church.

To book a table for cream tea please call Jane on 07787528448



You may be aware that many charities and organisations are struggling at this time, this includes churches.

Great News! You can now sign up to join the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) online. There is a link for this on the Giving page of our website:

<https://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/giving/>

-

If you haven't considered the PGS before, we would ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. It's very easy to sign up and it works in a similar way to a Direct Debit (that it is intended to replace), in that a regular payment authorised by you goes out either weekly, monthly or yearly straight to the church. It is perfectly safe and can be stopped or changed at any time.

PGS is a great way to give to the work and mission of St Margaret's Church. Donations given through PGS come straight to the Church, there are no admin fees or bank charges for us to pay. 41 people have now signed up to do this - Thank you



TM








Scan me & choose the
Church for your kind
donation

PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME

Recycling at St Margaret's Centre

Please bring clean and dry:

-  Bread Bags
-  Milk Bottle Tops
-  Blister Packets
-  Ink Cartridges
-  Stamps

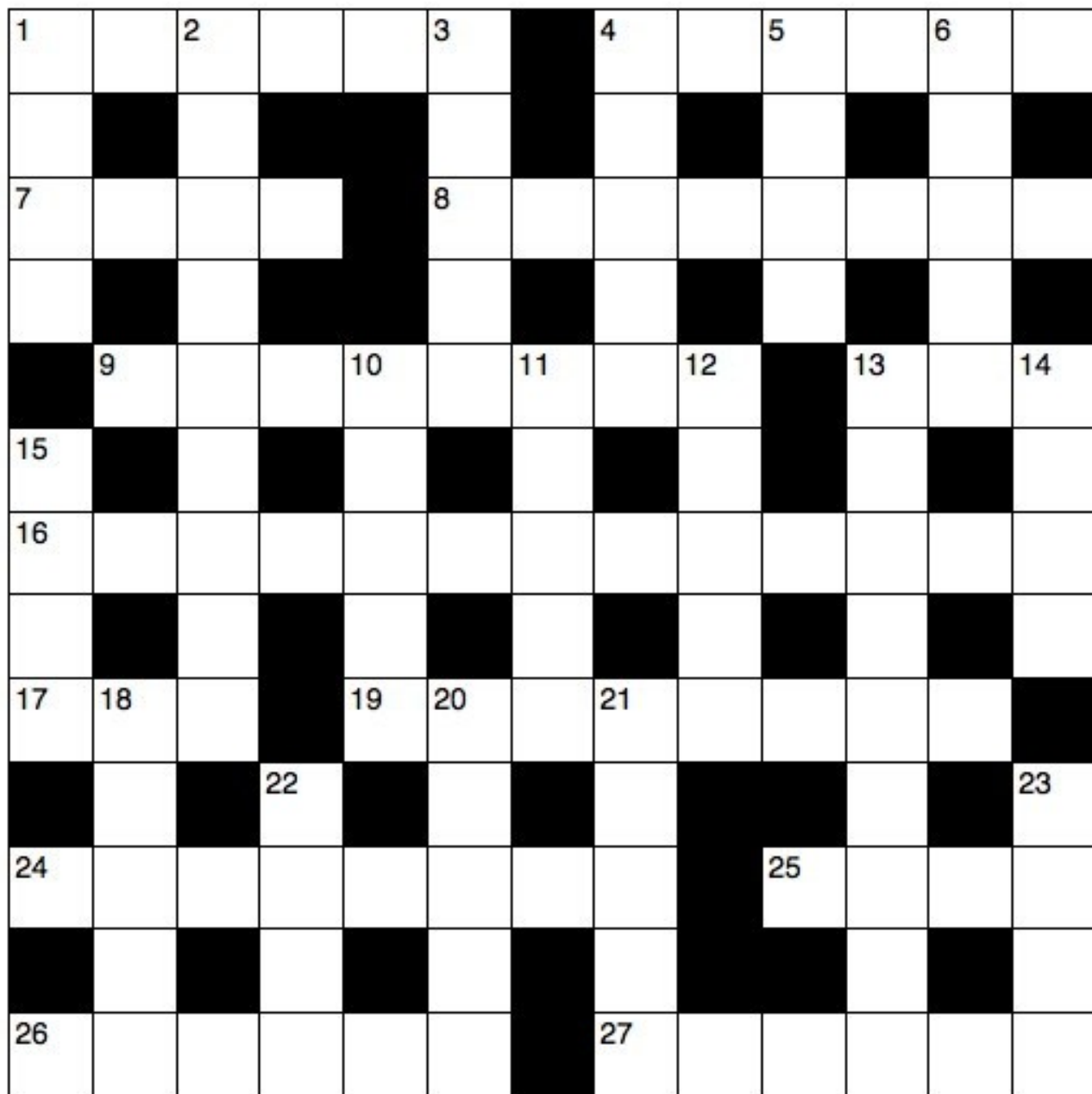
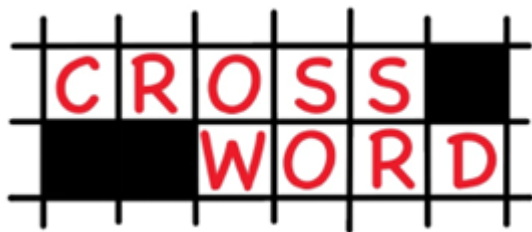
These help support Charities such:



IMPORTANT

Please ensure these are all sorted into correct bins.

They are taken by various volunteers



Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)

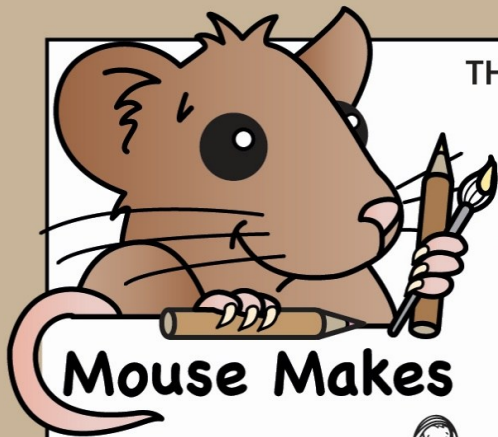
Across Cont.

- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)





Mouse Makes

Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible
Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

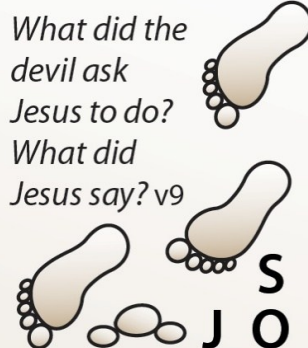
"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

Put God **first**
Worship **only** Him.

1



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



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

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

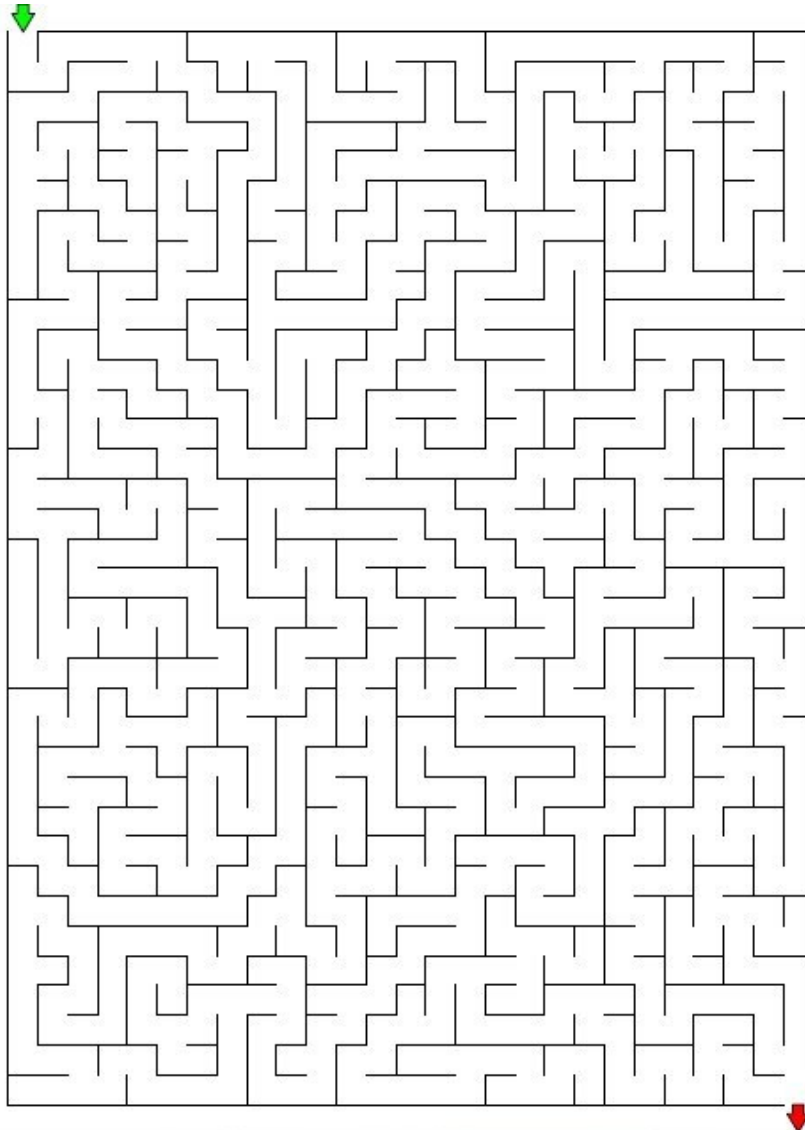
"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, **trust**
Him do not test Him.





Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE

for Articles and Information anytime before 15th February 2026

Georgina Martin:

Church Office,

Tel: 826505

St Margaret's Centre

Email:

stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

Also, by hand or call Georgina Martin on 07768 243675

Errors and omissions — while we do try to ensure that all details are correct, some things may slip through and we apologise for that.

PARISH DIRECTORY & CENTRE USERS ORGANISATIONS

Babies & Toddlers	Georgina Martin	07768 243675
Bell Ringers	Wendy Sears	07769 788821
Boys' Brigade	Teresa Daghish	07796 925621
Brownies - Mon	Yvette Webster-May	825398
Bumps and Babes	Bekki	bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com
Centre Bookings	Richard Pflieger	828367
Choir	Geoff Walters	822006
Church Cleaning Rota	Pat England	822786
Coleview	Church Office	826505
Church Flowers	Richard Pflieger	828367
Mothers' Union Deanery Branch	Anne Pope	07790 730 685
		email eannepope@gmail .com
FWO Envelopes	Ray England	822786
Gift Aid Sec.	David Horne	07717447855
Guide-Brownie Commissioner	Zoe Smith	831190
Music Group	Rob South	822811
Organists	Rob South	822811
	Geoff Walters	822006
Preschool	Hayley Woods, Supervisor	07816 547752
Wl. Stratton St Margaret	Mrs Covell	829900



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Our Family Service, Caring for You

- Independent family run funeral directors in Swindon
- Compassionate staff who treat every funeral as personal
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- Over 30 years experience and more than 500 five star reviews

Registered with The National Association of Funeral Directors
and The Society of Allied & Independent Funeral directors,
giving you peace of mind.

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(online reviews)

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01793 422 422

Papermakers House
Rivenhall Road
Westlea, West Swindon, SN5 7BD

info@pearcefuneralservices.co.uk



Included in the Good Funeral Guide since 2011 in
recognition of our high standards of service.