



Stratton  
Team Ministry

Stratton Team Ministry

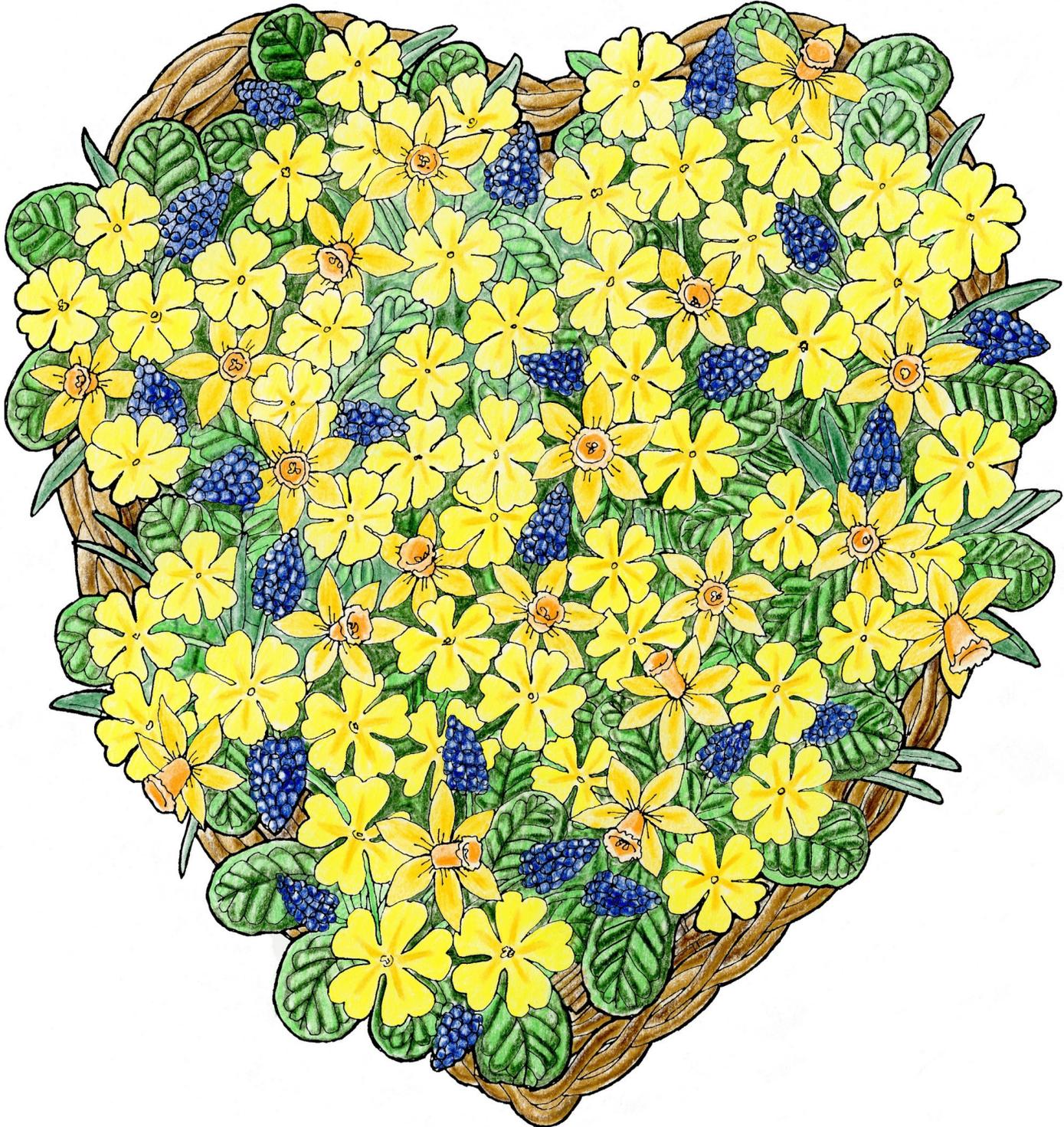
Seeking, Sharing, and Serving God Together

[www.strattonteamministry.co.uk](http://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk)

March

2026

# THANK YOU



## 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 does Lent mean to you?

It's perhaps a time not many of us look forward to! We may think of it as a time to focus on our wrongdoing – our sin – a time to give up things we enjoy.

Spring cleaning our homes, opening cupboards to see what needs clearing out, is hard work. It may not fill us with joy, but deep down, we know it's a good idea, and that we'll feel a whole lot better afterwards. Perhaps Lent is a bit like that?

Giving up something we enjoy can simply be a reminder – as we reach for it, and then stop, we remember that it's Lent. But giving something up for Lent, on its own, is not what Lent is really about. There is a risk that we will tick the box marked "Lent" – and not take time for a more reflective approach to the season. So what else might we do?



God longs to see the people he created living life to the full. That means, from time to time, opening the "cupboards" of our lives to see what needs clearing out – to examine ourselves and see what might need to change. Lent is an opportunity to do this. Our relationship with God can grow only when we are completely honest with ourselves and with him.

Living life to the full as God intended, also means doing things that feed our souls.

For you, what are the things you do that help you feel really alive? Maybe it's walking, or gardening – when it's not raining! Or listening to music, reading poetry, or listening to a podcast, or being creative.

Perhaps having a good natter with an old friend is what feeds you. God created us to use the gifts he has given us. Are you making time for those things that lift your spirits? And if your life situation makes it hard to do one thing you love, could you explore some other activity?

What about your relationship with God – how is that growing? As followers of Jesus, it's important that we make time for prayer – however we choose to pray. You might pray at the same time as doing one of those things you enjoy. What works for you will be different to the next person. People who are ordained deacon or priest make a commitment to pray every day. You might think that wearing a collar makes it easier - it doesn't! I have to plan it into my day. This does help, but sometimes, stuff happens, I notice that I'm feeling out of balance, and then I realise why: I've allowed praying to be squeezed out.

For a violinist to play beautifully, they first need to tune their violin – every single time. To pray is to tune ourselves – to refocus on God, by praising him, confessing our sins, reading the Bible, and praying for others in need. Praying together when we meet in church sustains us as a church community. Praying on our own during the week too helps us to grow in faith, and to grow closer to God.

For me, combining the time I sit down to drink a coffee or tea with time to pray, often works well. Maybe that's what you do, or perhaps you use your commute or daily walk. If you're a morning person, sitting in bed at the start of the day may be what you do, or perhaps last thing at night works better. How is your prayer-life? If it's going well, be encouraged – and keep going! But if prayer is not going so well, or you're not praying at all, except in church, why might that be? What is getting in the way? Maybe your life situation means it's impossible to make time to sit and pray – because of illness or caring responsibilities, or something else. Jesus lived on earth as a human – so he knows what it's like.

Therefore, at such times, God understands and carries us through, even if we are not aware of him. As and when life becomes calmer – we can have another go: God longs for us to draw close to him, because he loves us and wants the best for us.

Or the thing that's getting in the way, might be something that, in itself, is a good way to spend your time, but that is taking over more than it should. Or it could be something that you sense is unhealthy. Is Lent the time to face up to this, and change?

To invest in your relationship with God is to *store up riches in heaven* – for *your heart will always be where your riches are* (Matthew 6:20). Jesus doesn't mean here, *don't worry about this life – get yourself ready for the next one*. "Heaven" is where God is right now. As we learn to love and serve God more and more, we will have treasure today, not just in the future. That means, learning to live in the way Jesus talks about in his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5 to 7).



Maybe you want to refresh how you pray – or you're not sure where to start. You might use the Lord's Prayer as a framework. Lots of resources are available, including books, such as "How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People" by Pete Greig. Free apps include "Lectio 365" and "Pray as you Go" - both offer each day an audio track of around 10 minutes which includes a mix of music, Bible readings and prayer. For other ideas, why not ask a friend who prays, or one of the ministry team?

So, whatever it is that feeds your soul – do more of it.

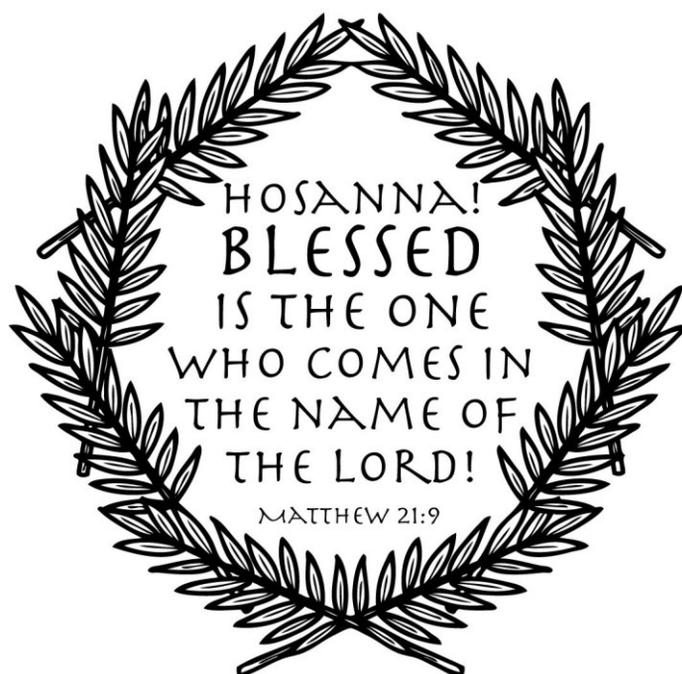
And if there is something getting in the way of prayer – do something about it.

This Lent, what is one change you could make, to help you to grow closer to God? Because God loves each of us more than we'll ever know. God longs for us to be transformed, to be more and more like Jesus, to become the people he created us to be.

Rev Charlotte

Curate

Image: Dürer, Albrecht, 1471-1528. Praying Hands, or Study of the Hands of an Apostle, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57523> [retrieved February 22, 2026]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Praying\\_Hands\\_-\\_Albrecht\\_Durer.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Praying_Hands_-_Albrecht_Durer.png).



## Changing Times

“When the moon is brightest it begins to wane When the moon is darkest it begins to grow again”

“Every journey begins with the first step”

When everything appears to be going wrong what, as Christians do we do? We turn to God and put our trust in Him. This is the first step! Then, dark clouds ease and we know that matters will improve.

Times change and this is a case in point.

Many years ago I was hoping to show some young family members how a Runner bean or Broad bean first germinated with a piece of blotting paper around the inside of a jam jar, a bean between the blotting paper and the jar and a little water – and within a few days, a sprouting bean.

I went to W H Smith’s in Regent Street.

An assistant looked amazed. “What is blotting

paper?” I struggled to explain that it was used with ink. “What is ink?”

I left without blotting paper!



Times change but our Lord God does not, of that we may be sure.

God Bless us all.

*Colin Howell*

## HEAVEN AND HELL

Many years ago, I watched a programme on BBC2 called 'The Key'. It was mainly about the rise of the trade union in the shipyards of Scotland.

At the end of the series, the narrator was bringing the story to an end and mentioned how her Grandmother had explained to her what Heaven and Hell were like. It struck me as a good analogy and in case you did not hear it I thought I would share it with you.

Hell is where all the people have really long arms. They are sat around a huge table that is full of wonderful food, but they cannot eat any of it, as their arms are too long to be able to feed themselves.

Heaven is exactly the same, but the people can share the treasures of the table because they use their long arms to feed each other.





# March

## 1<sup>st</sup> March

**St Margaret's  
Church**

**9:30am**

Holy Communion  
Service

**St Leonard's  
Church**

**9:30am**

Sunday Morning  
Worship

**St Mary Magdalene  
Church**

**10am**

All Age Worship

## 8<sup>th</sup> March

**St Margaret's  
Church**

**9:30am**

Sunday Morning  
Worship

**St Mary Magdalene  
Church**

**9:30am**

Holy Communion  
Service

**St Leonard's  
Church**

**11am**

Family Service

## 15<sup>th</sup> March

**St Mary Magdalene Church**      **10am**

Team Worship

## 22<sup>nd</sup> March

**St Margaret's  
Church**

**9:30am**

Sunday Morning  
Worship

**St Leonard's Church**

**9:30am**

Holy  
Communion  
Service

**6pm**

Taize  
Service

**Coleview  
Community Centre**

**11am**

Holy Communion  
Service

## 29<sup>th</sup> March

**St Margaret's Church**      **10am**

Palm Sunday Team  
Worship

Please see our website for the most up to date information [www.strattonteamministry.co.uk](http://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk)

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

# EASTER



## **Palm Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30am** St Margaret's Church  
Sunday Morning Worship  
**11am** St Leonards Church  
Family Service



## **Maundy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**7pm** St Margaret's Church  
Holy Communion Service  
followed by a Taize Service



## **Good Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**10am** St Margaret's Church  
Good Friday Service  
**2pm** St Leonard's Church  
Hour at the Cross



## **Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>**

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>8am</b> St Mary Magdalene Church | Holy Communion Service |
| <b>9:30am</b> St Margaret's Church  | Holy Communion Service |
| <b>11:30am</b> St Leonards Church   | Holy Communion Service |

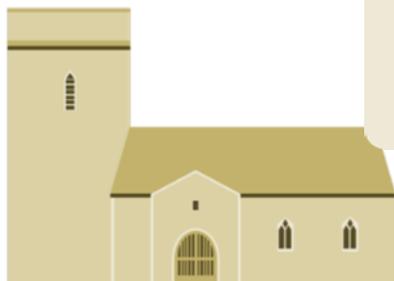


St Leonard Stanton Fitzwarren is one of the team churches.

It has much of historical interest, including a recently restored armorial (coat of arms) from the time of Queen Elizabeth 1st.

The building is open on Wednesdays in school term times from 10am-4pm and is well worth a visit.

[www.stantonchurch.info](http://www.stantonchurch.info)



# Events Update

## **Kentwood** *The choir with a difference*

*On February 13th, the Kentwood Choir performed a Valentine themed concert in the church. Over 40 people attended and to say we were entertained would be an understatement. Sheila Harrod played the role of pianist, conductor and comedienne and had us in stitches. At one point there was even an impromptu Headlands school reunion which was hilarious to watch. With a fantastic mix of stories, hits from musicals and well known songs, a great time was had by all. And we made a profit of £540 towards the church maintenance fund.*



*Our next event is an Easter Egg hunt at St Margaret's Church on Saturday 28th March. Come along and hunt for the eggs to solve the puzzle and learn the story of Easter with a chocolate gift at the end. Also, you can decorate your own stone to be blessed and help create the Easter garden. The event is free and no booking is needed, arrive any time between 10:30am and noon.*



## SOMEONE ELSE

How often do we hear someone say, when asked if they can help in a situation "Could so and so not do it?" How nice it is to find a helper who assists without question. As Christians how fortunate we are to have a ready helper whenever we turn to prayer, for our prayers through Jesus are always, without fail, answered. Our Anglican Church services always set aside a time for prayer and whilst we pray wherever we may find ourselves, that time in a Church service has that little extra feel.

Joan and I, whenever we were away, enjoyed finding a Church, or perhaps even a Cathedral and spending a while just sitting and contemplating finding an oasis of calm away from the noise of everyday life and sometimes finding a Church magazine to purchase.

A printed magazine can so easily help spread the Christian message and connects us to fellow Christians. No matter what, we all have the sure knowledge that a ready helper is always at our side, we just need to ask for there is never any prevarication, just a helping hand and for that we can sincerely.. Thank God.

*Colin Howell*

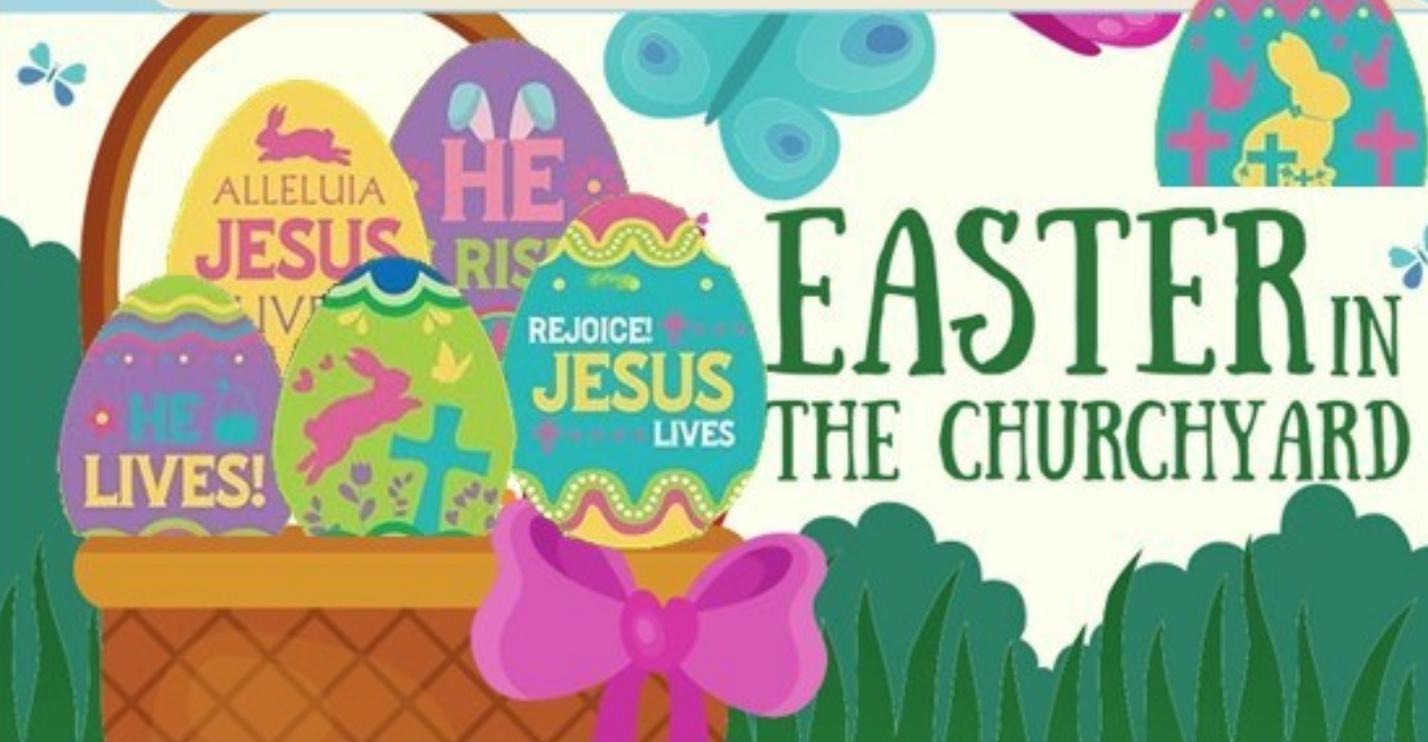




# ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

FREE EVENT  
REFRESHMENTS  
AVAILABLE

## Easter Egg Hunt



**SATURDAY MARCH 28<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**10:30AM | ST MARGARET'S CHURCHYARD, SN3 4NY**

*Further details can be found online at*

[strattonteamministry.co.uk](http://strattonteamministry.co.uk)



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



## Upcoming Events



|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
|  Easter Egg Hunt         | 28th<br>March          |
|  Quiz night              | 10th<br>April          |
|  Summer Garden Party    | 5th<br>July            |
|  Beer Festival         | 11th-12th<br>September |
|  1920's Murder Mystery | 30th<br>October        |
|  Thamesdown Choir      | 12th<br>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](http://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk)



**Facebook:** @StrattonTeamMinistry

# Quiz night

**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*



Stopping Violence  
Stopping Poverty  
Stopping Injustice

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

## MOTHERS' UNION MIDDAY PRAYERS FOR MARCH 2026

### Theme - Global Invitation to Prayer and Action

Reflection for the global invitation to prayer and action

(from the Prayer Diary 2026)

A choir sang, 'Come, let us sing unto the Lord!' (Psalm 95). A child heard the call, 'Yes! I wanted to join that chorus of praise.' Today, a bud swells on the 'dead' branch of winter, vibrant green, bursting with new life, stirring hope of new beginnings. I ponder the source of God's call, how it grows from Scripture, in worship, an attractive life of faith transforming lives, or the wonder of creation. Joining our global community of sisters and brothers in Mothers' Union, the World Day of Prayer, and the United Nations mission, let us be open to receive God's call anew, to widen our vision in prayer and action.

### Monday – The call to Worship

*Come let us sing unto the Lord (Psalm 95)*

*"Music stirs our hearts and engages our souls in ways we cannot describe."*

*Hildegard de Bingen*

We look back at the men and women in the Bible, who helped spread the word of Christ, and made sure that His sacrifice was not forgotten. We pray for our worship leaders, our beloved clergy and lay leaders. They sing the praises of the Word and guide us to follow the path of God. We pray also for all musicians and choirs... thank you for the gift of music, for leading us and making our prayer and worship joyful.

*He who sings, prays twice.* Let us praise you with melodies from the heart. May our souls never stop singing, giving thanks, and rejoicing, calling others to prayer.

Amen

## **Tuesday – Call to Hospitality**

*Come and See (John 1:59)*

We give thanks for our chaplains, Bible study leaders, outreach ministry, Mothers' Union members... all those generous people who give their time and energy to the Lord, spread the good news of his Word. They are true disciples of God, who go into their communities and share the message of the Lord with bravery and passion. May they find those who are lost and bring them to the light. May they welcome those who need family, those who want to find meaning in their lives, and show them the global family in faith.

Amen

## **Wednesday – Call to Discipleship**

*Come follow me (Matthew 4:19)*

God, we pray for those who committed their lives to you, and those on their faith journey. We give thanks for those who teach in the Church, for baptism and confirmation groups, giving support to those who are new to faith and Your wondrous ways. May they accept the teachings of the Lord and follow them with faith and courage. We pray that, as the disciples followed Christ, we can find the strength to get out into the world and share the good news as they did.

Amen

## **Thursday – Call to Ministry of Prayer and Refreshment.**

*Come apart and rest awhile (Mark 6:31)*

Lord, we pray that we may find clarity in this world and drown the sounds that distract us from listening to you. We give thanks for retreat centres; spiritual directors, soul friends, prayer group leaders. Their guidance and reflections come directly from God, inspired by their faith in Him, studious and comfortable in the silence. We are all sisters and brothers in the eyes of God, and we pray that we can provide refreshment and prayer to those in need. May all who are burdened with the pressures of life find rest and peace in the Lord.

Amen

## **Friday – Call to sacrificial living**

*Come, take up your cross and follow me  
(Matthew 16:24)*

Lord, we know how tough the world is, and we are thankful for the people who take it upon themselves to help any way they can. From leaders of social action and advocacy, servant ministry in church and community; civil service and peace keeping at home and abroad... Give them the willpower to continue doing your work on earth, carrying the cross and sacrificing their time and efforts for the Lord. We also thank the Mothers' Union, which over its 150 years of service has changed thousands of lives with its transforming Projects and Programmes. We pray that these can continue to meet the needs of our communities.

Amen

**Saturday – Call to Vigil Ministry with the suffering.**

*Stay here and keep watch with me*

*(Matthew 26:38)*

Lord, help us do your work. Help us stand and keep watch over those who are suffering. Home carers, addiction and homeless agencies, Samaritans and counselling ministries, Refuges for Domestic Abuse... Through the power of prayer, help us bring happiness and hope to the people suffering the most, and give your servants the faith to stand by them. Provide your hands to comfort those less fortunate, so they can share their heavy burdens with us. We keep the gift of faith and share it with those who listen. If they trust us with the burdens, the power of prayer will help lighten it. We pray that the world heals, and slowly becomes a better place, where everyone has a home, and everyone is accepted for who they are.

Amen

**Final Blessing Prayer (monthly prayer from the Prayer Diary 2026)**

Called by God to be a global family of prayer, action, and service, may God bless us with:

- hands to comfort
- a holy anger at oppression seeking justice
- a restless discomfort with easy answers, so that we can seek the truth boldly
- enough foolishness to believe that we really can make a difference in this world.

So, we are called, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done. Amen

# DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know where Hovis Bread got its name?

It derived its name from the Latin for "the strength of man" Hominis Vis, thus Ho Vis and now you know.



Did you know where Triang Toys got its name?

It was founded by the three Lines brothers who used the idea of an Equilateral Triangle as the concept, thus Tri Ang and now you know.



## APCM

It is that time of year again for all who have been involved in Church events or groups to please submit a report.

### Reports to be submitted to the Church office

- ☞ St Leonard's PCC APCM meeting will be on **19<sup>th</sup> April** after the 10am service Reports needed by **27<sup>th</sup> March**
- ☞ St Margaret's & St Mary Magdalene PCC APCM meeting will be on **21<sup>st</sup> April** Reports needed by **27<sup>th</sup> March**

Reports will be available on the websites, if you or someone requires a hard copy please contact the office.

# JOKES

A naturalist found evidence of a hitherto unknown breed of giant elephant living in the rainforests of South America. Eventually he raised sufficient funds to launch an expedition to bring back this direct descendant of the mammoth. After weeks battling their way through the jungle the party stumbled up on a three-foot-tall pygmy standing next to the dead elephant. The naturalist approached the pygmy and exclaimed: "Did you kill this elephant?"

"Yes", replied the pygmy.

"But it's so big and you're so small!"

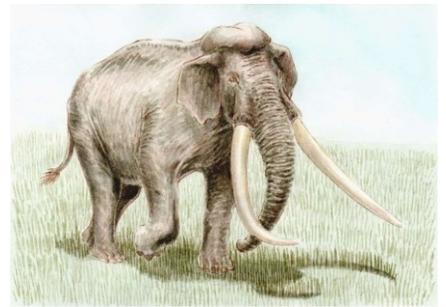
"Yes," said the pygmy.

"How on earth did you kill it?" asked the naturalist

"With my club" said the pygmy

"How big is your club" inquired the naturalist

"Well, there are about a hundred of us."



## Used Car Buyers Guide - The Reality:

MUST SELL .. before it falls apart.

RUNS FINE.....I was going to say 'runs excellent' but I had a last-minute conscience attack.

NEEDS SOME BODY WORK.....was blinded sided by a Winnebago.

WELL-MAINTAINED ... I changed the oil occasionally.

ALL ORIGINAL ... I never had anything fixed, adjusted or replaced

LOADED WITH OPTIONS ... each one more troublesome than the last.

NEVER SMOKED IN ... unfortunately, that's the best thing I can say about it.

A REAL CHERRY ... it's the pits.

ONLY ONE OWNER ... difficult to sell.

GREAT ACCELERATION ... downhill.

LOOKS LIKE NEW ... just don't try to drive it anywhere.

GREAT SECOND CAR ... you wouldn't want to depend on it for primary transportation.

LOTS OF POTENTIAL ... doesn't run.

NEEDS MINOR REPAIR ... doesn't run.

On a visit to his impoverished sister, a man was obliged to share a room with his young nephew. Entering the bedroom, he saw the little boy crouched down at the far side of the bed with his head bowed. Thinking the child had been brought up to say his prayers, the man decided to follow his example and kneeled at the near side of the bed with his head bowed.

The boy said: "What are you doing?"

"The same as you."

"You'll be in trouble with my Mom. The pot's on this side!"



### Signs That You Were a Bad Child:

- You put at least three teachers into retirement.
- Your parents used to ground you in advance in order to save time.
- Your parents moved without telling you.
- Half the animals buried in your backyard weren't dead when you buried them.
- Your principal had your name, address, and other school related information on a rubber stamp to save time when writing up your referral sheet.
- You spent more time in detention than in regular class.
- Your teacher offered you an automatic 'A' grade if you promised not to go to school.
- Your name was frequently raised at P.T.A. meetings, along with the words 'thug', 'fight' and 'expelled'.
- The wooden paddle in the teacher's desk is shaped like your back side
- You were a frequent subject in other people's therapy.



The boss of a big company needed to speak urgently to one of his management team at the weekend, so he phoned him at home.

The phone was answered by a small boy in hushed tones.

“Hello,” said the boss. “Is your daddy home?”

“Yes,” whispered the child.

“May I talk with him?”

“No.”

The boss was not used to hearing his requests rejected. “Well, is your Mommy there?”

“Yes,” whispered the boy.

“May I talk with her?”

“No.”

The increasingly impatient boss tried again:

“Is anyone else there?”

“Yes, a policeman.”

The boss was startled to hear that the police were there. “Well, may I speak with him?”

“No, he's busy,” whispered the boy.

“Busy doing what?”

“Talking to Daddy, Mommy and the firemen.”

Just then, the boss heard a strange whirring sound down the phone.

“What's that noise?” he asked.

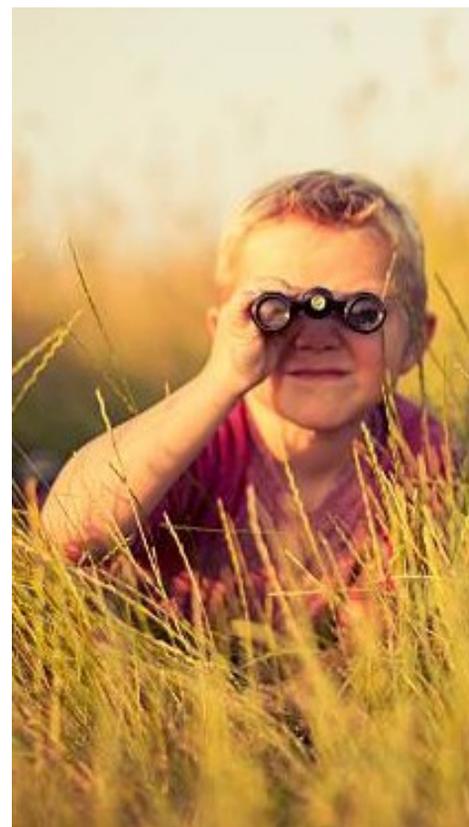
“A helicopter,” whispered the boy.

“Exactly what is going on there?”

“The search team just landed the helicopter,” confided the boy.

“What are they doing there?”

“They're looking for me.”





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 21<sup>st</sup> March**

**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*

**18<sup>th</sup> March**

*Rev. Sally Robertson*

The Camino de Santiago and our  
pilgrimage through life



**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**

**24th April – 26th 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 25th April 4-5.30pm. Cream Teas accompanied by organ music with Christopher and Berkley Hill.
- Saturday 25th April 6.30pm. Celebration Concert with Good Afternoon Choir, The Big Sing Thing and more organ music.
- Sunday 26th 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



# GIVING

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

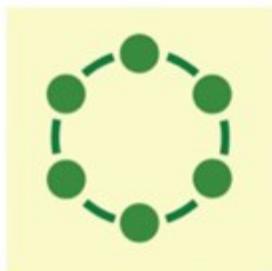
Great News! You can now sign up to join the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) online. There is a link for this on the Giving page of our website:

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

-

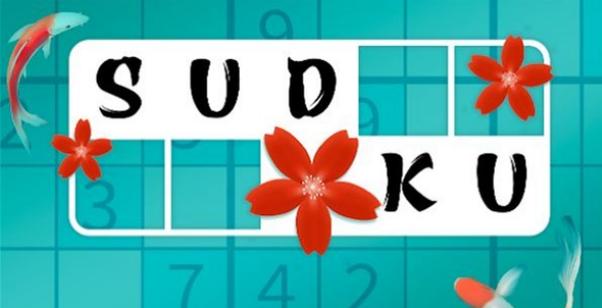
If you haven't considered the PGS before, we would ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. It's very easy to sign up and it works in a similar way to a Direct Debit (that it is intended to replace), in that a regular payment authorised by you goes out either weekly, monthly or yearly straight to the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



Scan me & choose the Church for your kind donation

PARISH  
GIVING  
SCHEME

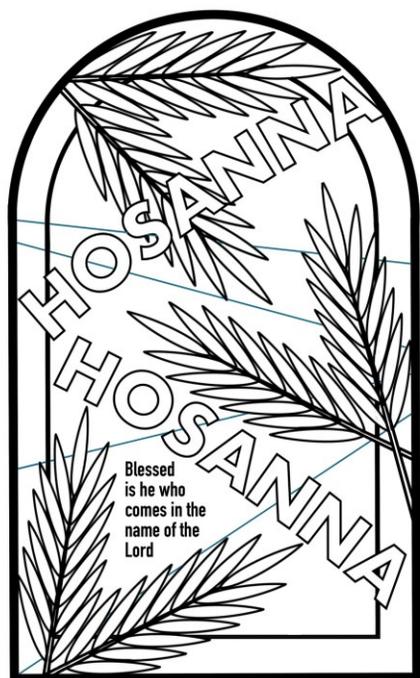


|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 |   | 9 |   |   |   |   | 8 | 3 |
| 5 | 4 |   | 9 | 3 | 1 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   | 4 |
| 4 | 5 |   |   | 1 |   | 8 | 2 | 6 |
|   | 6 |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |   |
| 8 | 9 | 2 |   | 6 |   |   | 4 | 1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

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*My sermon today comes from  
Aps Chapter 1 beginning at verse 2...*



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

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The rules for Sudoku are to fill a 9x9 grid with the numbers 1–9, without repeating any numbers in a row, column, or 3x3 box.

# Recycling at St Margaret's Centre

Please bring clean and dry:

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

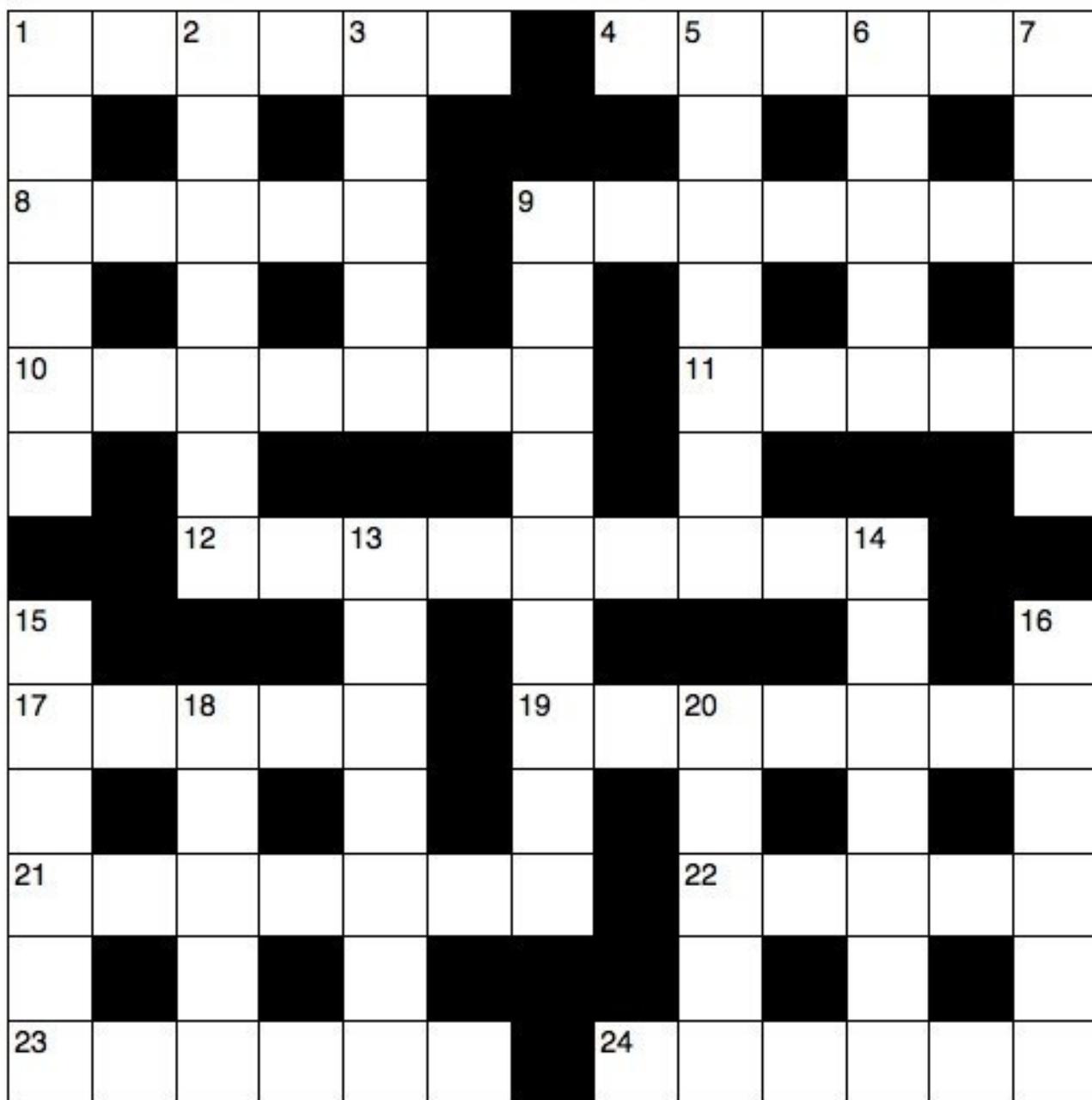
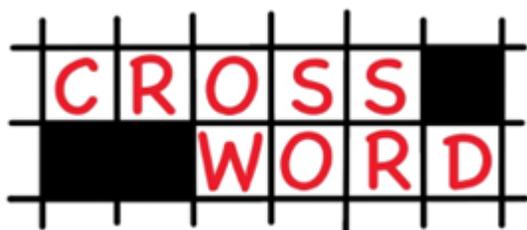
These help support Charities such:



## IMPORTANT

Please ensure these are all sorted into correct bins.

They are taken by various volunteers



### Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 “They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)

## Across

11 Dirge (anag.) (5)

12 'A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies' (Proverbs 12:17) (9)

17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)

19 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)

21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)

22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)

23 'All the people — — one man, saying, "None of us will go home"' (Judges 20:8) (4,2)

24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

## Down

1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)

2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)

3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)

5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)

6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)

7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)

9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)

13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)

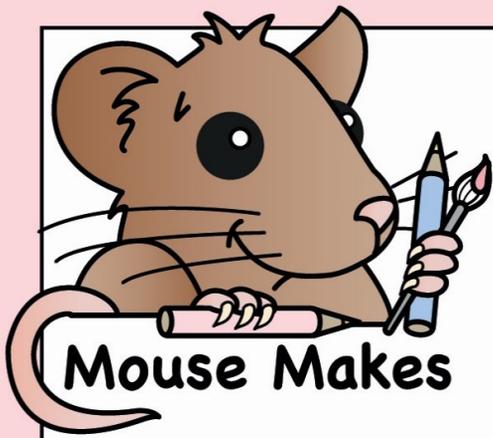
14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)

15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)

16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)

18 Donkeys (5)

20 Raked (anag.) (5)

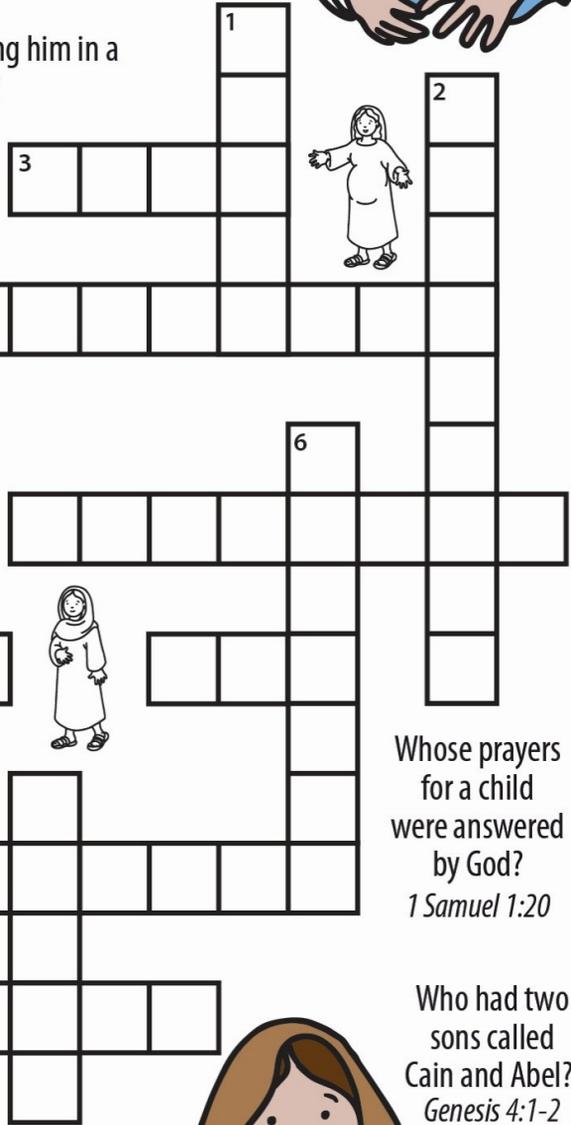


The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

*Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20*



Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?  
*Genesis 17:19*



Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?  
*1 Samuel 1:20*

**Across**

3. **Obed's** mother

*Matthew 1:5*

4. **John's** mother

*Luke 1:57-60*

7. **Reuben's** mother

*Genesis 29:32*

8. **Joseph's** mother

*Genesis 30:22-24*

9. **Jesus'** mother

*Acts 1:14*

**Down**

1. **Boaz's** mother

*Matthew 1:5*

2. **Solomon's** mother

*1 Kings 1:11*

4. **Timothy's** mother

*2 Timothy 1:5*

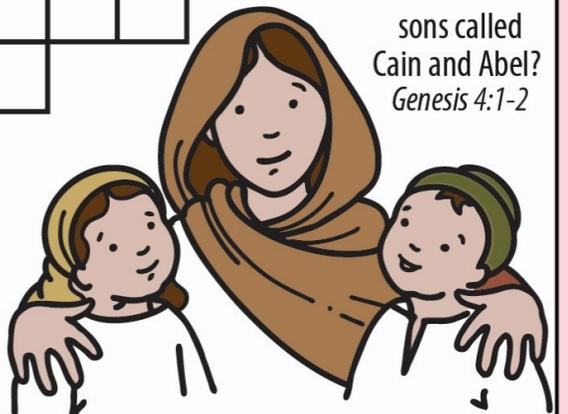
5. **Ishmael's** mother

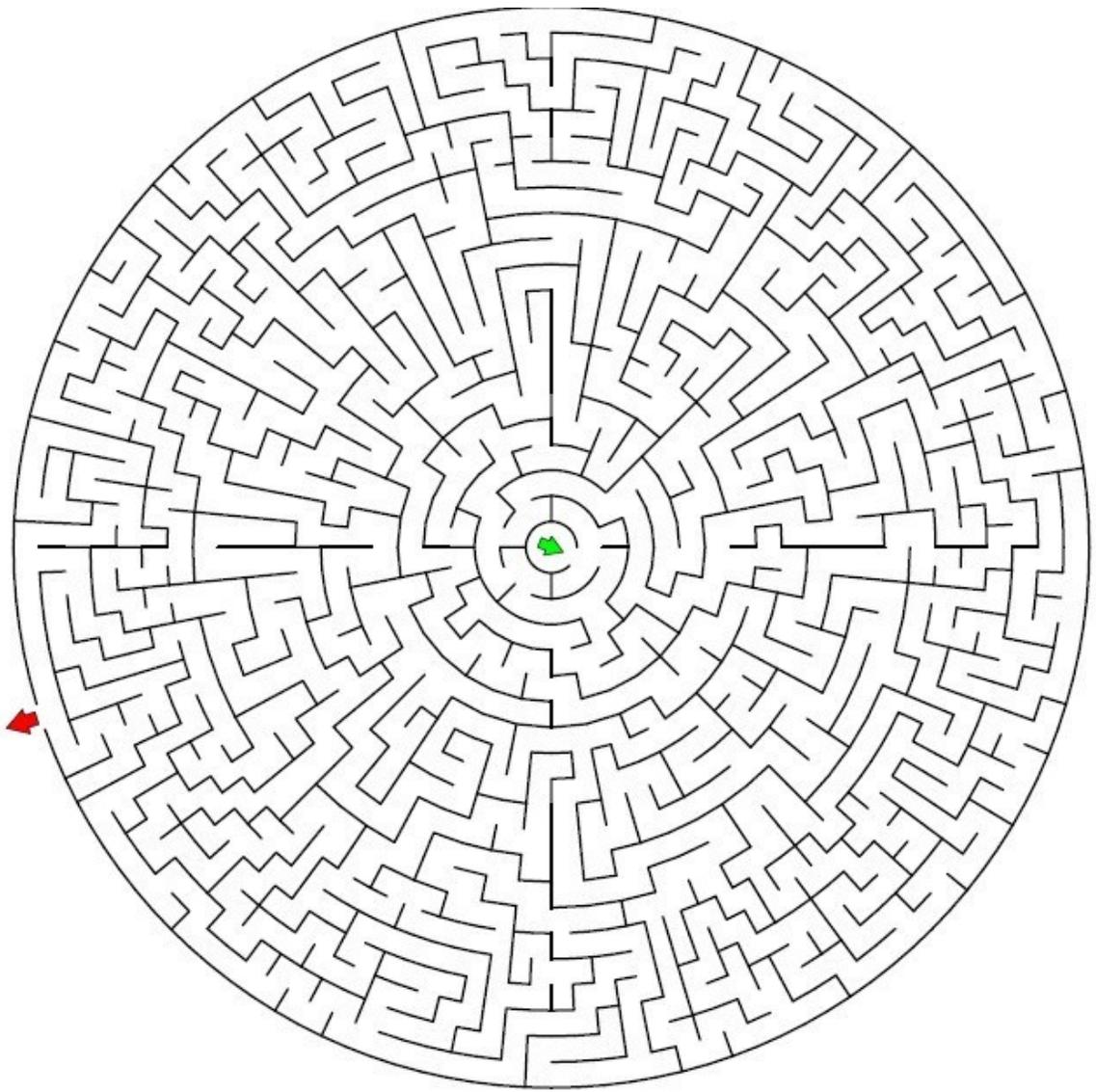
*Genesis 16:15*

6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother

*Genesis 25:21-26*

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?  
*Genesis 4:1-2*





### Crossword Solutions

**ACROSS:** 1, Awaken. 4, Quench. 8, Hit me. 9, Sadness. 10, Semitic. 11, Ridge. 12, Testimony. 17, Psalm. 19, Indulge. 21, Deserve. 22, Ariel. 23, Rose as. 24, Beggar.

**DOWN:** 1, Aghast. 2, Attempt. 3, Eject. 5, Undergo. 6, No end. 7, Hasten. 9, Sacrifice. 13, Samaria. 14, Yelling. 15, Spider. 16, Dealer. 18, Asses. 20, Drake.

### STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE

**for Articles and Information anytime before 15<sup>th</sup> March 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<br>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                                      |
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