

## November 2025

### **Stratton Team Ministry**

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



### 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 Pfleger 828367

St Leonards Church

Mrs Liz Hillman 762935

Mr Chris Pope

Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers & DBS Lead Recruiters

Dr Mike Bosher 07799835437

Mrs Mary Bosher

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 Church Family

What a month it's been! God has been good and the sun shone for both of our bulb planting events at St Margaret's and St Mary Magdalene. There are photos on Facebook showing the happy smiling faces of our volunteers. Two families joined us at St Margaret's and I hadn't seen the children since I baptised them so it was wonderful that they came to support this event. We were joined by a family at St Mary Magdalene and our Counsellor Matthew Vallender. Refreshments were enjoyed at both events and my deepest thanks goes to those who organised and helped.

On 26<sup>th</sup> October we had an Elizabethan Event at St Leonard's, this was to celebrate the restoration of the Elizabeth I Amorial. We had our choir, a



string quartet, hand bells and Rob played an organ piece. Geoff played the harpsichord as well as accompanying the choir. There were over 65 people who came and the event was a great success. There were even a few Elizabethan dressed ladies serving cakes during our intermission. Mike gave

an interesting talk on the history of the Amorial, its historical significance and the restoration process. The Amorial is now on display permanently placed to the right corner of the church near the Vicar's stall. If you haven't yet seen it please do take the time to visit and have a look. Our Amorial is only one of 12 that we know of and ours is rarer still, being 3D and the dragon depicted is green. My deepest thanks goes to all who took part, those that played, sang, rang, served and baked. Thank you.



Still to come is our murder mystery event which I hope will be well supported. Even the actors don't know until the night of the performance who dunnit! I love a murder mystery so I will be there looking for clues I hope you will be too.

Looking ahead in November we have our Remembrance services on the 9<sup>th</sup>. On the 15<sup>th</sup> November our Methodist brothers and sisters will be holding their annual Tear Fund Big Quiz, Stratton Team always field a couple of teams but the more the merrier and it is for a good cause.

This year we decided to hold our annual Rosemary Service on a Team Sunday.

This gives all our church family across the team a chance to attend to remember their loved ones. It was decided to hold it during the usual morning slot as feedback from some of evening services is that many don't like coming out in the dark. Our Rosemary service is a chance to remember loved ones whether they died recently or many years ago. Names that have been given to us will be read out as part of the service and there will be an opportunity to light a candle.

This is also the time of year when our Funeral Directors hold memorial services and it is a privilege to welcome back Pearce Memorial Services to our church.

Our Advent service this year is, like the Rosmary Service, a team service at 10am at St Leonard's. We have traditional readings and carols that are specific to Advent. We as Christians know that Christmas begins at the birth of our Lord Jesus and what happens before that is about preparing for that great occasion during our Advent season. Traditionally it would have been a time of prayer and fasting much like Lent though this discipline has faded out of our tradition in the West. However we can use this time to prepare for our Lord. You don't have to fast but maybe take some time to focus on the true meaning of the season. It's an opportunity to reconnect again more deeply in prayer and perhaps spend more time reading our Bibles, it's surprising how the Gospels differ when telling the Christmas story.

You will see that we have had, over this year, a variety of events. The purpose of these events is to invite people who don't normally come to church or have much contact with Christians. Most people have no idea what churches are like inside, only what they see on television or film. By the way have you noticed whenever there is a vicar in the show, they are either putting out the hymn books or putting them away? Anyone would think we live there! Putting on events is our way of showing a friendly, welcoming Christian face, a way of making the building seem less scary or intimidating. The hope is that they may then think we are 'all right' and maybe they may even reach out to us in a time of need. Alongside our events having a missional focus, they are also valuable fundraising opportunities for us. It would be lovely to make our church more accessible with a permanent ramp for example. Not only could we make the church more welcoming we could also perhaps get a children and families worker to help us with our children's ministry.

The possibilities are endless if we have the funds available. We don't keep all the money we raise either, we have charities that St Margaret's support each year, International, National and local, it's the local charities that we give 10% to of anything we make. Our events team are always open to hearing ideas of what we could put on. We want to hold events that appeal to different, demographics and ages so that we our helping build our community engagement at Stratton. Our hope is that what we learn at St Margaret's will help our other churches in our team. An example of this is we gave some of our bulbs to St Mary Magdalene. Many people across Stratton Team are willing to help out at any of our church's events as could be seen at St Leonard's Amorial celebration.

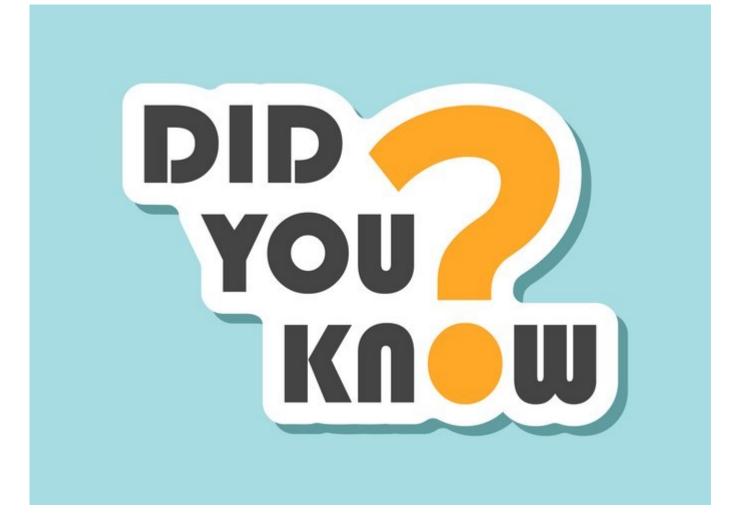
And finally, just to say, I have heard many positive comments about what a welcoming, friendly lot we are at Stratton Team. One lady who attended a funeral even took the trouble to email and thank us.

Well done everyone!

Blessings

Rev Elveen





Did you know?

Did you know why a cricket wicket is 22 yards in length? Imperial measure included one chain of 100 links as being 22 yards long. Widely used in surveying and agriculture it was readily available to lay out a quick wicket. The game is first recorded in 1550 being played at the Royal Grammar School in Guildford although it is regarded as being much older. In 1774 it was written into the first rules of the game – and now you know!

Did you know?

Did you know when and why standard time was adopted? The Great Western Railway began 'Railway Time' in 1840 when all clocks and watches on its system were synchronised to one time, since until then all times were based on 'Local Time', differing widely throughout the country – and now you know!

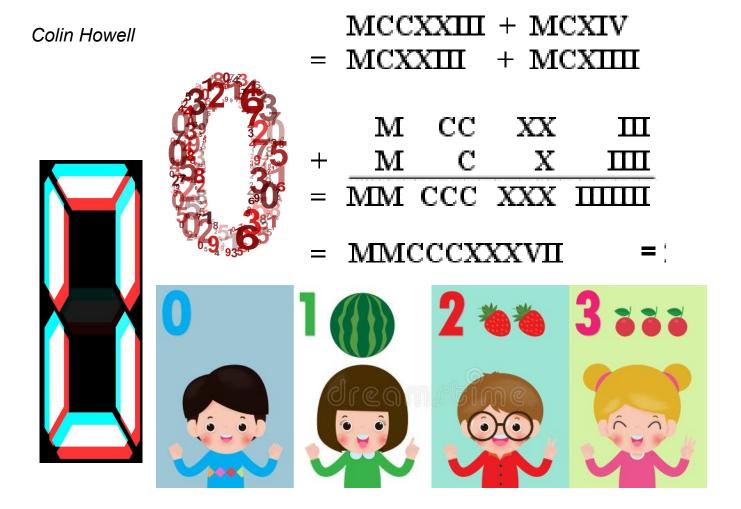
### **Numbers**

Try multiplying D by C, then divide by V and subtract M. How did the Romans manage?

Nowadays the modern world uses the 'Arabic' method of numerology all simply based upon angles: number one has one angle, two has two angles and so on up till nine.

I remember on one year end exam time the Maths master telling the class of poor results. "We even have Howell top with 60%" – my moment of fame! The concept of zero was not solved until much later, by I believe, Persian mathematicians.

Where you may ask is all this leading? It is I trust leading to a simple answer as was the original concept of angles to signify numbers. Jesus' teachings were simple, attuned to the daily lives of his audiences. To love our neighbours as ourselves is a bedrock of our Faith so let us all try to aspire to this teaching.





Diocese of Bristol

"Join us, Join in!"

Mothers' Union Swindon Deanery Branch

Our November meeting will be on Friday 14th It will be in St Margaret's Centre at 2.30pm.

We will be having an exhibition and explanation about "Souls of our Shoes" which is talking about Domestic Abuse.

Everyone is welcome

Do come and join us.

For more info, visit the Bristol MU website

www.mubristol.co.uk







raising awareness of modern slavery



480 million women around the world can't read or write



### **Weekly Prayers for November**

Theme - Spreading Our Wings

### **Reflection for 'Spreading Our Wings**

The success of the RISE UP campaign is helping so many people who have been affected by domestic abuse, as well as raising awareness of what we do. As we move into November and the United Nations 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, (25<sup>th</sup> Nov- 10<sup>th</sup> Dec) let us pray that we continue to spread our wings and reach out to more and more people that many more may know the love of God and the fellowship he brings.

### **Monday**

Father of all, we pray that You will bless those who have been affected by domestic abuse, so that they will find a way to live lives full of hope, love and joy. May we be inspired by them to spread our wings as people of faith and strive to bring justice and peace to the world around us. Amen

### **Tuesday**

God of compassion, bring healing to those wounded by domestic abuse. Shelter them in Your peace, restore their strength, and surround them with love and safety. Soften hearts hardened by violence, and guide all toward justice and mercy. May hope rise where pain once dwelled, and light overcome every shadow. Amen.



### Wednesday

Loving Father, we pray that our church members will spread their wings to support not only those abused by their partners, but also children who have witnessed domestic abuse and those, including teenagers who may not realise that they are victims of coercive control. Amen

### **Thursday**

Loving God, spread your healing wings over all wounded through injustice and Domestic Abuse. Teach us to spread our wings, too. Fill us with courage to challenge violence by breaking silence, raising awareness and standing with survivors. Guide us to be voices of compassion, instruments of peace and hope. Amen.

### **Friday**

Loving Lord Jesus, we pray for all those who are trapped Behind Closed Doors into relationships where abuses of power are perpetrated, corrupted expressions of love are peddled, and freedoms are curtailed through false representation of your Word. May we as members of your church, rise up and offer ourselves as signposts towards the Open Door to a new Restored life of freedom, safety and genuine love as seen through your life and witness. In Jesus' name, Amen



### **Saturday**

Gentle God, we offer to you all who will weep tonight due to fractured relationships.

With your tender love, bring them comfort.

Guide us to ways we can support and bring hope.

That, we may all soar like eagles.

Spreading our wings to reach our full potential.

Living life to the full in healthy relationship, as you intended. Amen

### **Final Blessing Prayer**

May we wait on the Lord and find our strength renewed by Him

May the love of Christ, help us to soar with wings like an eagle.

May we run and not grow weary, walk and not faint, as the Spirit of God lifts us up.

And the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen



2<sup>nd</sup> November All Saint's Day

St Margaret's Church

St Leonard's

St Mary Magdalene

Church

Church

9:30am

9:30am

10am

Holy Communion

Service

Sunday Morning

Worship

All Age Worship

9th November REMEMBRANCE

St Margaret's

Church

St Leonard's

Church

St Mary Magdalene

Church

10:45am

10:55am

10am

Remembrance

Service

Remembrance

Service

Remembrance

Service

16th November Rosemary Service

St Margaret's

Church

10am

Sunday Morning Team Worship

23rd November Christ the Kina

St Margaret's

Church

St Leonard's

Coleview Community

Centre

9:30am

9:30am

Church

11am

Sunday Morning

Worship

Holy Communion

Service

Holy Communion

Service

30th November First Sunday of Advent

St Leonard's Church

10am

Advent Team 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.



Stratton Team Ministry invite you for All Age Worship

10am Every First Sunday of the month



# ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH SOUTH MARSTON • Welcomes you to a. Community Coffee



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 15th November

Enquiries or for tabletop sales please call 01793 824339



Hosts Coffee Morning now at
Stanton House Hotel
10:15am - noon
On the 3rd Wednesday

Of the month

Everyone Welcome

This month's speaker is Josh Hillman –

*My.early.yrs.in.the.police .*19<sup>th</sup> November

### **Stratton Team Ministry**



St Margaret's Church



Come and join Stratton Team Ministry for our Bumps and Babes group on Tuesdays.

Bumps & Babes is a place for expectant parents and parents with babies (up to one year old\*) to meet and chat over a coffee – sharing in the experiences of pregnancy and the joys and challenges of the early months of parenthood.

Mats and toys are available for you to play with your babies, as well as time for a few songs!

We are joined by guests each a month to share with us about subjects from weaning to breastfeeding; faith to reusable nappies!

Register for your place now via the link or complete a form on arrival – we look forward to welcoming you!

When: Tuesdays 11.15-12.15

(term time only)

Where: St Margaret's Centre,

Kenwin Close, SN3 4NY

Cost: Free

### Contact Us & Useful Links

Bumps and babes 9@gmail.com



www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/explore /kids-and-youth/bumps-babes/



Register for your place now https://forms.gle/fM4NesmSPYWTNuiC7



Bumps and Babes St Margaret's Swindon

<sup>\*</sup>Bumps and Babes aims to provide a safe place for younger babies to explore, therefore the group is only open to babies up toa year old or until they are very mobile - you will be responsible for your child at all times. A babies and toddlers group runs in the St Margaret's Centre on a Wednesday and Friday where there are more age-appropriate toys for toddlers. Please contact us if you have a special request.





A zookeeper needed some extra animals for his zoo so he decided to write a letter. But unfortunately he didn't know the plural of 'mongoose.'

He started the letter:

To whom it may concern, I need two mongeese.
But that didn't sound right so he tried again.
To whom it may concern, I need two mongooses.
But that didn't sound right either. Then he had an idea.
To whom it may concern, I need a mongoose and while you're at it send me another one.

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and to celebrate the whole family climbed into the car for his inaugural drive. Dad sat in the back directly behind the driver. The boy said: "I'll bet you're back there to get a change of scenery after all those months of sitting in the front passenger seat teaching me how to drive?' "No," replied Dad, "I'm going to sit back here and kick the back of your seat while you drive just like you have been doing to me for seventeen years."

A car mechanic received a repair order that read: Check for clunking sound when going around corners. So he took it out on a test drive and sure enough, whenever he went around a corner, he heard a clunk. However he quickly located the problem and returned the repair order to the service manager with the notation: Removed bowling ball from trunk.





While making a tour of the provinces a Turkish sultan was so impressed by a salesman's ornate fez that he invited him to the royal palace six months later to display his line of headgear. When the salesman arrived at the palace for his audience he was ushered with others into the sultan's waiting room. The sultan passed by shortly afterwards and glanced at the salesman. "I don't recall your name," said the sultan pleasantly, "but your fez is familiar."

A small boy was dawdling all the way to school. "Hurry up," said the mother. "You'll be late!" "What's the rush?" he asked. "They're open till 3:30."



The Geography teacher was giving a lesson on map reading and trying to explain to his class about latitude and longitude, degrees and minutes. Towards the end of the lesson he asked his students: "Suppose I ask you to meet me for lunch at latitude nineteen degrees, seven minutes north and longitude 39 degrees, thirteen minutes east?" After a confused silence, one student volunteered: "I guess you'd be eating alone, sir!"

### A few riddles:

 $\odot$ 

What do you call the drivers in an Egyptian traffic jam?

Tookin-car-men

What do you get if you cross a frisbee with a cow?

Skimmed milk

Which is faster- hot or cold?

Hot, you! you can catch a cold.

Why don't skeletons like parties?

They have nobody to dance with.

Why do elephants have corrugated feet?

To give ants a fifty-fifty chance

Why don't witches like to ride their brooms when they are angry?

Because they are afraid of flying off the handle.

Why is getting up at four o'clock in the morning like a pig's tail?

It's twirly

What do you call an igloo without a toilet?

An ig



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





# Recycling @ St Margaret's Centre







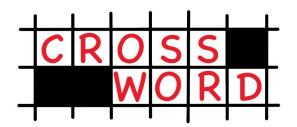
In support of

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### **Across**

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — ' (Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah all the way (1 Kings 18:46) (3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)

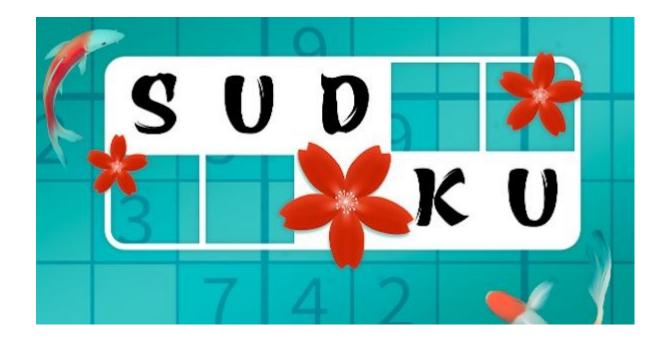
### **Across**

- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 'When he saw him, he took on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 'For is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 'The god of this has blinded the minds of unbelievers' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)
- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

### Down

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made ' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 'After supper he the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)
- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
- 6 I veto me (anag.) (7)
- 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
- 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
- 12 'I have made you — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
- 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
- 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the —, something sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)
- 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — a man's understanding' (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
- 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under , but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
- 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
- 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
- 26 Heroic tale (4)
- 27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you ' (John 8:32) (4)

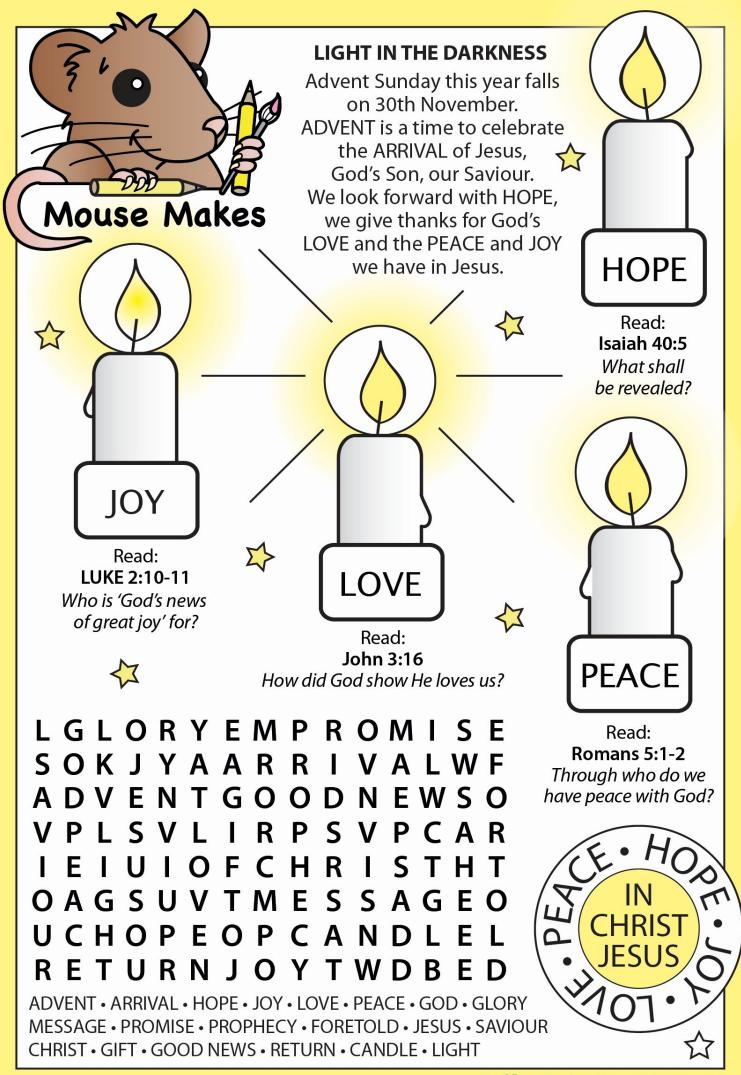




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9		1				3		2
8	4		3		1			
					2	7	1	8
				1		4	9	
6			9				3	5

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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.



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	2							9
			5	7	4			
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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.

### **Crossword Solutions**

ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

**DOWN:** 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19. Egypt. 20, Hair.

### STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE for Articles and Information anytime before 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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 Daglish	07796 925621		
Brownies - Mon	Yvette Webster-May	825398		
Bumps and Babes	Bekki	bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com		
Cadley Dance	Maria Howse	824446		
Centre Bookings	Richard Pfleger	828367		
Choir	Geoff Walters	822006		
Church Cleaning Rota	Pat England	822786		
Coleview	Church Office	826505		
Church Flowers	Richard Pfleger	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		
WI. Stratton St Margaret	Mrs Covell	829900		



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