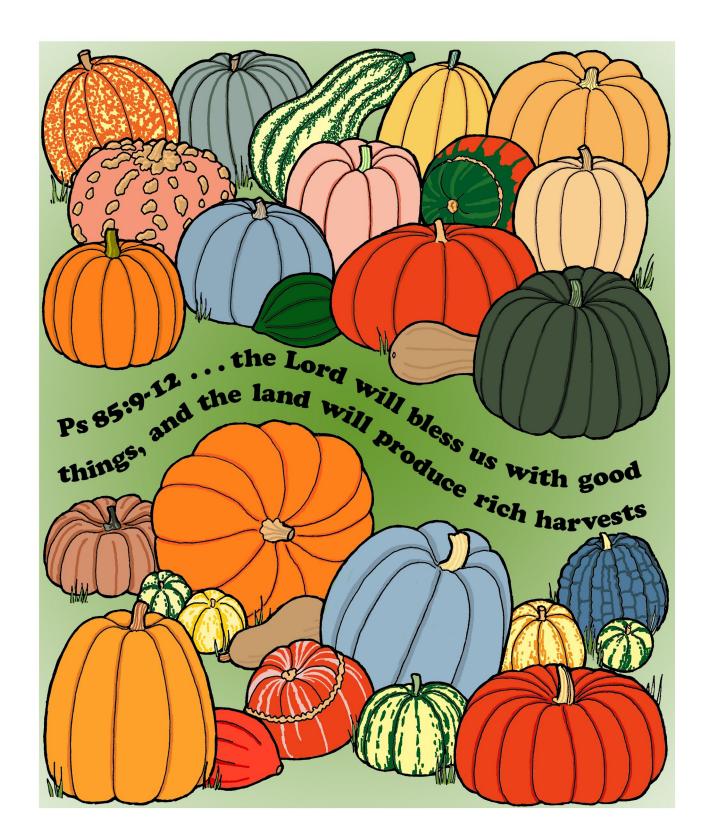
October 2025

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

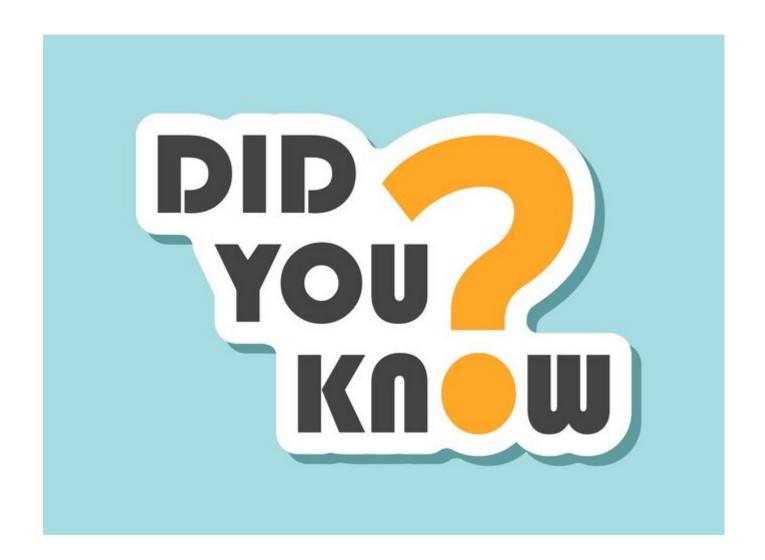


Faith

A man was quietly fishing in order to catch enough fish for the day's needs for his family. A passing stranger paused and said "I have not had food for several days so could you catch me a fish to feed me today?" The fisherman paused for thought and then replied "No, but I can, however, teach you to fish and so feed you for life!"

If we follow Jesus' teachings then we, as Christians, have all our spiritual needs met in abundance. Sometimes cares weigh heavily upon us and the grey clouds of despair engulf us. This then is when Faith becomes paramount for behind grey clouds there are eternal blue skies. "How great it is to see and believe, but how much greater it is to believe without seeing", said Jesus. Let His lessons feed us for our entire lives.

Colin Howell



Did You Know?



Did you know that the Spieling family moved from the Netherlands in 1988 and in 2012 began making "Cornish Gouda" cheese on their dairy farm at Polruan in Cornwall?

It is on sale throughout the UK - and now you know.



Did you know that the word 'Tiffin' which is used to describe teatime is from an Indian word?

It was an Indian word used to describe a light meal which caught on to describe an afternoon meal – and now you know!



Diocese of Bristol

"Join us, Join in!"

Mothers' Union Swindon Deanery Branch
Our October meeting will be on Friday 10th
It will be in St Margaret's Centre at 2.30pm.
We have as our Speaker, the Revd Andy Bissex,
He is the new curate from Highworth
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 October

Theme - Keys of the Kingdom

Reflection for 'Keys of the Kingdom'

The disciples asked Jesus 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' Jesus told them that 'Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles themself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.' Metthew 18:1-4

During October we have both Prisons week (Sunday 12th – Saturday 18th) and Anti-Slavery Day (Saturday 18th.) We remember that all those who are caught up in modern slavery and those who are in prison are still children of God and worthy of God's love and forgiveness. Let us heed Jesus' commandment to 'love your neighbour as yourself.'

Monday - Prison

Loving Lord, we pray for those in prison, their families outside the prison gates and all who work in the criminal justice system. We pray for the families of prisoners who serve their own sentence on the outside, living with stigma and shame. We pray also for the victims of crime, that they may know that God hears them as they cry out in their pain and frustration. Help them to find peace.

Amen.



Tuesday - Forgiveness

God of love and strength, Your Son forgave His enemies even while he was suffering shame and death. Strengthen those who suffer. When they are accused, save them from speaking in hate, when they are rejected save them from bitterness, when they are imprisoned, save them from despair. Give us grace to discern the truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from Anglican Church of Canada. Alternative Service Book)

Wednesday - Children

Father of all, let us be like children each and every day, seeing the wonders of Your creation through new eyes. Let us be in awe of all you have created. As the season begins to change let us find joy in falling leaves and crisp fresh mornings. Let us remember that we are stewards of Your world and treat it with the love and care that it deserves. Amen

Thursday - The Kingdom of heaven

King of Heaven, lead us ever onward to Your Kingdom. Let us know the breadth of Your blessings and the length of Your promises. We desire nothing more than to dwell, with You, so let us be like children and enter in, where we can sit at Your feet, watch You on Your throne and enjoy Your perfect love. Amen (Adapted from Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226)



Friday_- Our Father

Heavenly Father, may everyone upon the earth honour You. May Your rule be accepted and Your purpose accomplished. Forgive us the wrong we have done and let us forgive those who have wronged us. Give us a childlike love for You, which casts out all fear and while we gaze on You, let our love for You grow more and more each day. Amen

Saturday - Social Justice

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us, help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbours. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (Episcopal Church of the United States of America. Book of common prayer)

Final Blessing Prayer

May God give us light to guide us when we cannot see His way, courage to support us when we are afraid, and love to unite us all, His children, now and evermore. Amen





5th	0	cto	ber
J	u	LLU	וסט

St Margaret's Church 9:30am 8:30pm		St Leonard's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church 10am	
		9:30am		
Harvest Holy Communion Service	Compline	Sunday Morning Worship	All Age Harvest Service	

12th October

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 Harvest	

19th October

St Margaret's Church 10	am Morning Team Worship
-------------------------	-------------------------

26th October

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 endeavour 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 Leonards Invite you to our Family Service at 11am on the Second Sunday of the Month





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

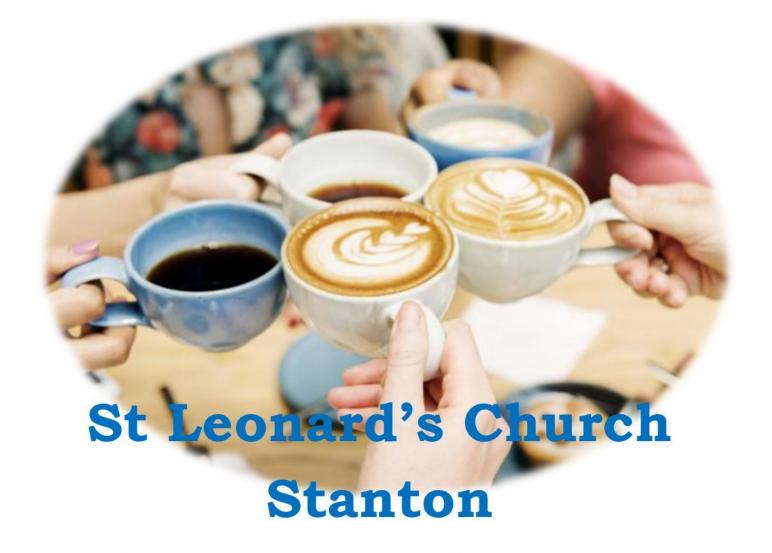


Come and Join Us for Refreshments (including bacon butties and delicious cakes)
In the Village Hall

10 - 12

Every third Saturday in the month 18th October

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 will be Rev Phil Goodey from Highworth on the Wednesday 15th October



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH



BULB PLANTING



Around The Church Yard

Saturday October 4th 10am to 12

FREE just bring a Bucket & Spade
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, SN3 4NB
///ducks.lung.furniture

Refreshments served & all bulbs provided

Further details can be found online scan QR code below or visit strattonteamministry.co.uk strattonteamministry

Elizabethan Concert

of Music to celebrate the conservation and display of

Armorial of Elizabeth I

(1558 - 1603)

Free Entry

Refreshments available
Donations welcome
Come and enjoy,
Stay for as long as you are able

Sunday 26th October, 3-5:30pm St Leonard's Church Stanton Fitzwarren



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH





Murder Mystery
Evening







Friday October 31st 7pm

Tickets £15 includes



food & a drink
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, SN3 4NB

///ducks.lung.furniture

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

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

^{*}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.



Jim is walking through a park when he sees an old man with a fishing rod in his hand. The poor fellow seems to be mad as he has the end of the rod dangling over a bed of roses." What are you doing? "asks Jim. "Fishing," replies the old man. "I'm trying to catch my lunch, I'm starving." Jim takes pity on the old geezer and offers to buy him a meal in a nearby cafe. The old man accepts eagerly and goes with Jim to have a huge plate of steak and eggs. After the old man has finished stuffing himself Jim makes conversation. "So do you go fishing in the park very often?" he asks., "Oh yes," replies the old man. "Every day." "And do you catch much?" asks Jim. "Sure," says the old man. "You're the sixth today."





A patient with an enormous mouth goes to the dentist for a check up, He asks her to open up and is confronted by her huge cavernous mouth. "I don't mean to be rude", says the dentist, "but this has to be the biggest mouth I've ever seen. The biggest mouth I've ever seen," "Okay!" snaps the woman. "So it's a big mouth, stop going on about it." "I'm not." replies the dentist. " "I only said it once.

A few quotes:



We spend the first twelve months of our children's lives teaching them how to talk and walk and the next twelve telling them to sit down and shut up.

Phyllis Diller

There are two seasons in Scotland - June and Winter.

Billy Connolly

- Tranquilizers work only if you follow the advice on the bottle; keep away from children.

 Phyllis Diller
- I always wondered why babies spent so much time sucking their thumbs then I tasted baby food.

Robert Brown

A General, an Admiral and an Air Marshal are asked to speak at a dinner. The General and Admiral decide to have a dig at the Air Marshal and both of them patronisingly describe the air force as the 'Cinderella' of the armed forces during their speeches. When it's the Air Marshal's turn he stands up and starts his speech by saying, "I don't know much about Cinderella except for the fact that she had two ugly sisters......

Murphy made a fortune with his last invention, it was a 'Stop' sign for the tops of ladders.



My uncle Silas is illiterate. He once tried to sue the local baker for forging his signature on a hot-cross bun.

Old Age - The Perks

Kidnappers grow less interested in you.

No one expects you to run a marathon.

There's nothing left to learn the hard way.

Things you buy new will never wear out.

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

You can sing and brush your teeth at the same time.



"Good news on the lottery-funding for the organ repairs, Vicar – three of our numbers came up for £25!

Art Club At Stratton Methodist Church, Ermin Street

The club is open to anyone who enjoys painting, drawing or colouring, no matter what skill level, and all materials will be provided. £2.00 per person, per session. If you'd like any further information, please contact Dave Pryor for more information using the email below

Now taking place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month between 12.30pm and 3.00pm.

Please note that any young person under the age of 14 coming along to Art Club must be accompanied by an adult.





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







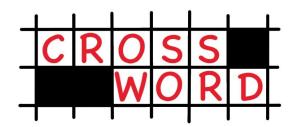
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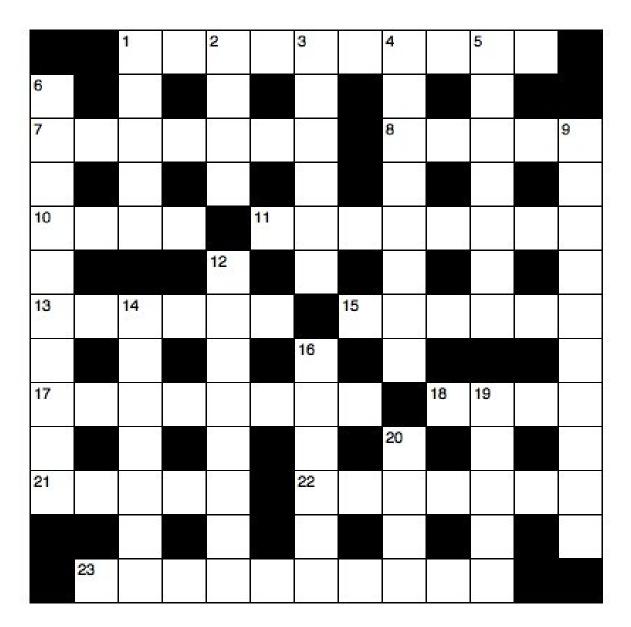
ME ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT











Across

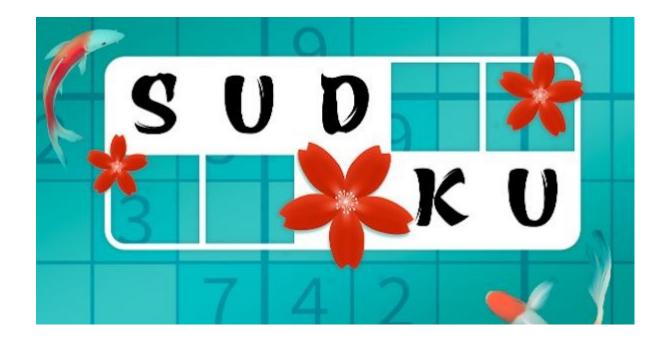
- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)

Across

- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
- 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his with her tears. Then she wiped them with her '(Luke 7:38) (4,4)
- 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an —, the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
- 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — go with you to prison and to death" (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
- 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
- 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this the whole of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
- 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
- 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
- 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
- 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
- 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
- 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
- 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
- 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
- 20 See 18 Across



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



HARVEST 2025

The Food Bank is feeding approx.10,000 people and is in need of the following:



FOOD:

Tins of Meat,
Potatoes, Fruit
Fish, Sachets
or jars of Coffee
Cartons of Long
life Milk and Fruit
Juice, Bottles of
Squash, Cereals

PERSONAL HYGIENE:

Shampoo/Conditioner, Shower Gel, Deodorant, Toothbrushes, Soap

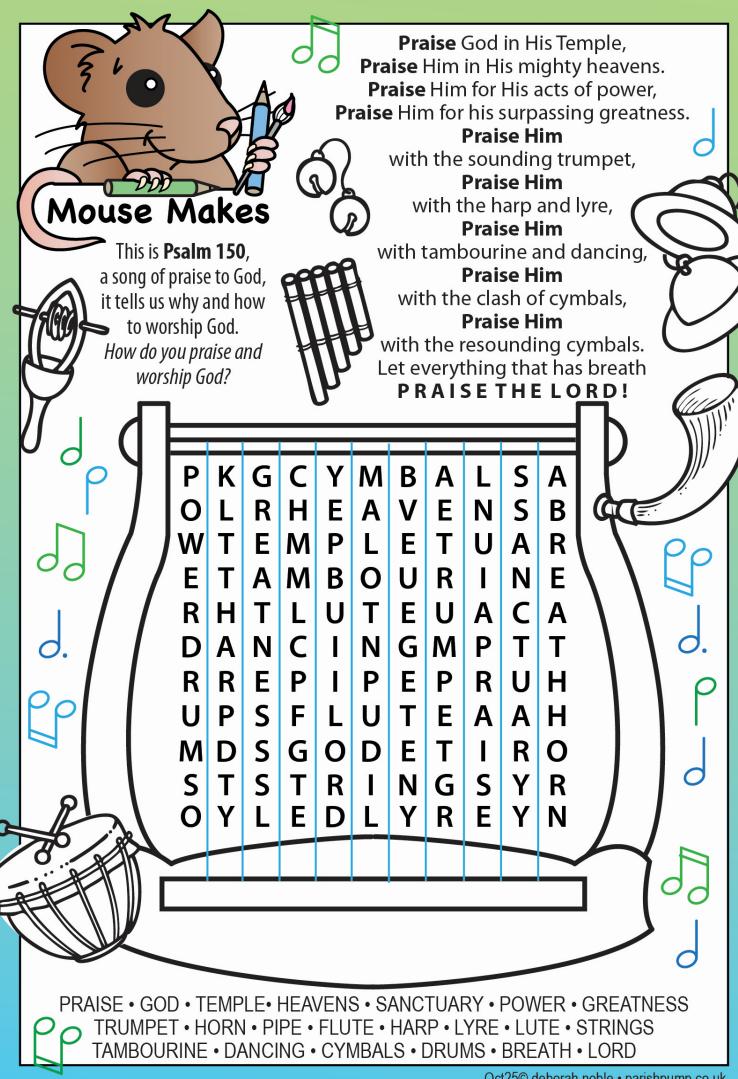
To Book Collections:

Please complete Our Form
and Send to
harvest@swindonfoodcollective.org

HOUSEHOLD:

Washing up Liquid Laundry Pods Surface Cleaning Sprays, Toilet Rolls





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

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 25th October 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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