



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

ST LEONARD CHURCH LINKS WITH USA

If you walk around the church you will find a number of memorials, most linked to the Lords of the Manor and their families. Going through the Chancel, if you look closely on the floor (just outside the vestry door), you will find a bronze plaque. It reads:

Reverend Thomas Hotchkys Minister of this Church who died

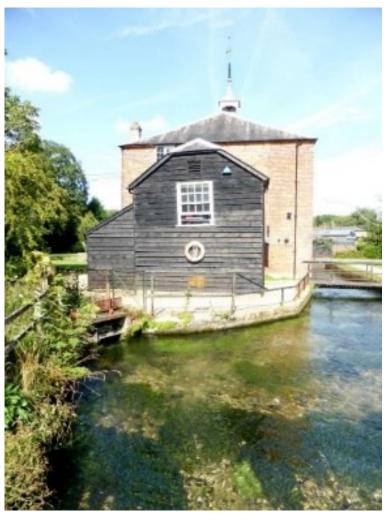
September anno salutis MDCXC (1690) de tatis LXXXIII (aged 83)

Many walk over this plaque, very few ever stop to wonder. What a story it could tell, if it could only speak!

Let us speak for it.

Our story starts with John Hotchkiss, father of Thomas Hotchkys. He was born at Coton, Wern, Shropshire in 1582. Husband of Margaret Nevett, they had ten children: Thomas; Samuel; John; Susan; Joshua; Daniel; Elizabeth; Barbara;

Auriela and Sarah, John Hotchkiss was a draper in the 17th century. He was primarily a merchant or retailer who dealt in textiles, especially woollen cloth and linen. He bought and sold fabrics and was a crucial figure in the clothing and fabric industry. He traded at Dodington, Near Whitchurch, Shropshire. It was a thriving wool community. The Domesday book tells us that "Whitchurch, an historic wool town had three mills. The beautiful clear waters of the fast flowing River Test provided all the hydro power and cleansing power necessary to a medieval woollen industry."



Dependent upon their success and involvement in the Drapers' Guild (especially the Guild in London), many drapers held prominent positions in their community. The Hotchkiss family more than likely had a comfortable lifestyle. This is borne out by the fact that John Hotchkiss gave his assent to a bond totalling £200 for his eldest son John. The value in today's money is around £27,000. During this time, it was usual for the eldest son to remain at home working on their Father's Estate or in his business. However, John is said to have been an apothecary in London. The money he was loaned could have been used to set up his business. Younger sons had to make their own way in life, some became Lawyers, some entered the Military, many went on to work in either medicine or the church. It was felt London was the place to make their fortune.

John's sons were educated at Oxford University. It was a centre for lively controversy, with scholars involved in religious and political disputes. From the beginning of the Church of England (as the established church), those wishing to become members of the clergy were required to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Dissenters (or non-conformists) were only permitted to study and graduate with a Master of Arts. This led many to leave England, emigrating to America with the Puritans.

John Hotchkiss died in 1655

Thomas Hotchkys

Thomas Hotchkys, arrived at St Leonard's Church around 1630. He was curate under Rev John Woodbridge V. John became ill in 1637 and upon his death, Thomas took on the role of Rector.

Thomas Hotchkys married Grace Steadman in 1639 and they had six children.

It would appear that Thomas kept in touch with his siblings. His brother Joshua visited him at Stanton, where he met Elizabeth Steadman (a relative of his sister-in -law). Thomas officiated at their wedding at St Leonard's before they moved to London. There is every reason to think that this close relationship would have included Samuel, his younger brother. He would have visited Thomas on many occasions and socialised with local families, especially the Woodbridges. I am sure there would have been many interesting discussions about church ecclesiastical ideologies.

Thomas, as a Rector, was decades later classified as being dull and uninteresting. However, we know differently. He went out of his way to help his parishioners. He created and witnessed wills for those who could not read and write and he left 40 shillings – around £300 is today's money - to the poor of the parish, to be paid to them at his burial. Thomas' daughter Elizabeth Hotchkys went on to marry Thomas Hippisley. His father Robert Hippisley was the patron at Stanton at that time.

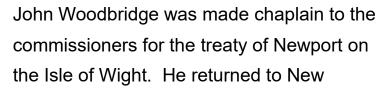
Rev John Woodbridge V, Rector

John Woodbridge was born at Stanton Fitzwarren in 1582 and became Rector in 1625, under the Patronage of Richard Organ, and later Robert Hippisley. He came from a long line of Woodbridges, all with the name John and all of which were ministers in the church. John Woodbridge was the fifth in line and married Sarah Parker, daughter of Rev Robert Parker. John and Thomas switched roles in 1637, when John became too ill to continue as Rector, Thomas taking over the incumbency.

John was said to be "able and faithful" and was highly esteemed amongst those that knew the invaluable worth of such a minister. John's son John Woodbridge VI, was an English non-conformist and emigrated to New England in 1634. He held positions on both sides of the Atlantic, before settling permanently in America.

Woodbridge VI studied at the University of Oxford, but objecting to the oath of conformity, he left the university and went on to study privately. He took up lands at Newbury, Massachusetts, where he acted first as town clerk until 19th November

1638. In the years 1637 and 1641 he served as deputy to the general court. Woodbridge was ordained at Andover Massachusetts on 24th October 1645 and was chosen teacher of a congregation at Newbury. There he continued, with good reputation, discharging the duties of the ministry until, upon the invitation of friends, he returned once more to England in 1647.





England in 1663 and became teacher and assistant pastor to his uncle the Rev Thomas Parker. As minister of Newbury, disagreeing with his congregation on some points of church discipline, he gave up his post in 1672 and became magistrate of the township. He died 17 March 1696.

SAMUEL HOTCHKISS

Now we come back to Samuel Hotchkiss. I am sure he would have had some interesting conversations with John Woodbridge VI. It is more than likely that following these, it was felt that Massachusetts, America could offer Samuel more opportunity. It is said that Thomas Hotchkys sent Samuel to New Haven to become an apprenticed writer to the church. Did they seek the support of John Woodbridge who had arrived three years earlier or did they have other connections? Samuel travelled on the Hector, a ship taking cargo, as well as 120 puritan passengers, at a cost of £5 each - £1000 in today's money. It is likely that Thomas paid his fare. The sailing would have taken two months and Samuel would have been in his mid-teens at this time.

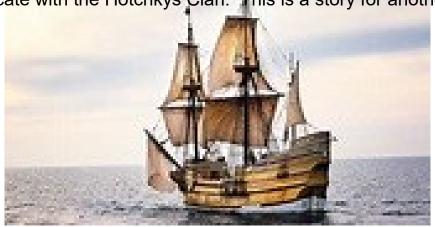
Samuel journeyed with the English Puritan Rev John Davenport, who obtained his Batchelor of Arts Degree, following which he became a non-conformist. He acquired the patent for a colony in Massachusetts, landing in Boston in 1637.

Elizabeth Cleverley was to meet Samuel in 1642, when she arrived in New Haven. Both Samuel and Elizabeth were to end up in court for quote "modern kissing and dalliances outside of marriage", for which they were severely whipped. They were unable to provide evidence of parental consent to marry. This gives us an indication that they were both under age, it also shows that Samuel had lost contact with his family. There is no actual evidence of where Elizabeth's father is at this time. They were finally given consent by the court on the understanding that their lack of virtue meant they were not fit to marry anyone else.

Samuel took the oath of fidelity in 1644 indicating he was over 21 years old. He is said to be one of the founding members of the community. Samuel and Elizabeth had six children by this time. He held varying small offices like pound keeper, and fence viewer, but he was not thought of highly by the community. In 1655 he was called into court for not attending the Sabbath and failing to bring arms when serving in the squadron.

Samuel suddenly died in 1663 at the age of 40, leaving no will. He was buried at Center Church on the Green Churchyard.

Out of this union came generations of notable patriots: literary artists, civil servants, scientists and manufacturing inventors. As the Hotchkiss clan grew, the family began to hold reunions. starting in 1880. They are said to have attended their 140th reunion in 2024. At St Leonard's we have been able to track down and communicate with the Hotchkys Clan. This is a story for another time.

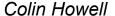


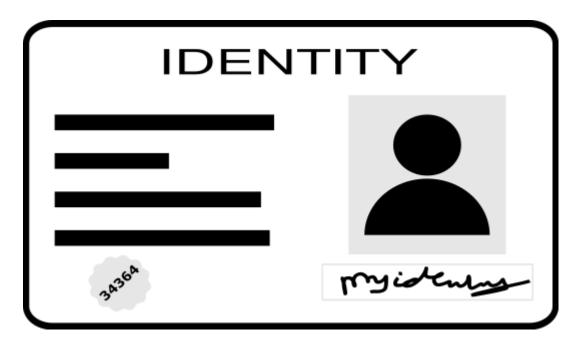
Identity

There are 195 countries in the world, of which less than 10 do NOT have some form of identity card. Nevertheless, a plethora of "necessary" documentation follows us in the UK - Passports, Driving Licences, Birth certificates, Debit and Credit cards. Store cards and more, in total, tell practically all of our personal details. Photographs with reference to the colour of our eyes, height, address and occupation and much more. So why not combine all these details into one Universal Identity Card? I offer no answer.

However, as Christians we have another identifying feature which needs no Identity Card. We put our Faith and Trust in our Risen Lord Jesus. In so doing we can be recognized by trying to follow His teachings.

To love God and our neighbours are the very basis of our collective Faith, no Identity Card is required, our actions and words should be sufficient to silently single us out as Christians. So while Identity Cards are virtually worldwide, let out daily lives be testament to our Christian identity.







Diocese of Bristol

"Join us, Join in!"

Mothers' Union Swindon Deanery Branch
Our September meeting will be on TUESDAY 9th
It will be in St Michael's Church, Highworth at 2.30pm.
It will be our WAVE of PRAYER Service
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 September

Theme – The Power of Reconciliation

Monday – Forgiveness

Heavenly Father, help us first to recognise our own failings and neglect to 'forgive and forget', in order that unburdened, we may work towards a future free of resentment or animosity. We pray that in our healing we may be transformed and reconciled with you. Amen.

Litany of Reconciliation.

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

Father forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women, and children, Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God, Father, forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



Tuesday - Redemption

Risen Lord Jesus, we come to you prayerfully, not because we have to, but because we want to.

You came into our world to redeem us by your death and glorious resurrection. Each day may we remember what we are ashamed of and turn to you for forgiveness.

Change us, dear Lord, that we may remember what we are ashamed of and turn to you for forgiveness.

Change us dear Lord, that we may be lights in the darkness and may we encourage and welcome people to enter our wondrous worldwide fellowship of Christians, loving both God and neighbour.

Amen

Wednesday - Empowerment

Hebrews 12:14

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Loving Lord, help us to remember that we are all created in your image. Empower us to look for you in all others and especially in those that are different from us.

Aiming to love our neighbour, help us to learn to live with the differences and to celebrate and cherish our diversity.

Amen.



Thursday - Hopefulness

Psalm 33:22

May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love for each one of us and the hope that we have in you.

As we seek to share that love and that hope in our own communities, we pray that others will be drawn to you and the transforming power of your love. Amen

Friday_- Reconciliation

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you discern my thoughts from afar. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, so high that I cannot attain it. (Ps 139)

But I know that you have reconciled us, through the cross of our Lord Jesus which has restored our broken relationship and brought justice and peace into our lives. Amen.

Saturday - Justice and Peace

Amos 5:24

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream!

Compassionate God, be with us all as we hold out hands of blessing to our Church family wherever they may be, and hands of reconciliation and peace to those in need whatever their circumstances, Amen.

Final Blessing Prayer

Be kind to one another, tender- hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you, and may God's blessing be with you as you journey on in faith and trust. Amen



7th September

St Margaret's Church

9:30am

Holy Communion Service St Leonard's Church

9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship St Mary Magdalene Church

10am

Family Service

14th September

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

21st September

Stratton Methodist

Church

St Margaret's Church 10:30am

Sunday Morning Team Worship With Stratton Methodist

6pm

Beers & Hymns

28th September

St Margaret's Church

9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship St Leonard's Church

9:30am

Holy Communion Service Coleview Community Centre

11am

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 20th September

Enquiries or for tabletop sales please call 01793 824339



Hosts Coffee Morning now at Stanton House Hotel

10:15am - noon

On Wednesday

17th September 2025





ST MARGARET'S CHURCH



BEER FESTIVAL



Saturday September 20th 2025, Noon to 10pm



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 strattonteamministry





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



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.



A boy applies for a job delivering newspapers. However the newsagent decides the lad is too young and tells him he is looking for someone a little older. A week later the boy comes back and applies for the job again. "You again?" says the newsagent. "I thought I told you I wanted someone older." "You did," replies the boy, "And here I am a week older."

A few bumper stickers:

If you see me running try to keep up. (Seen on the back of a T-Shirt worn by a bomb disposal expert)

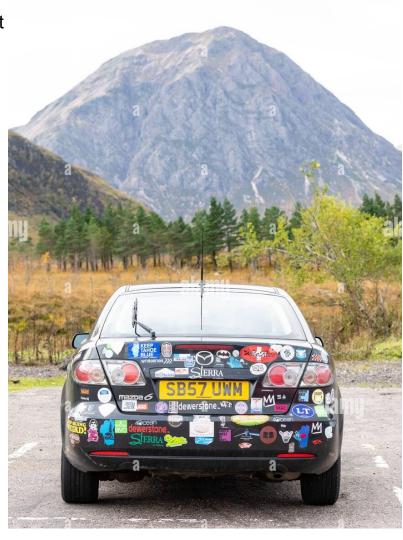
No radio: already stolen.

I'm objective, I object to everything.

I just let my mind wander, and it didn't come back.

Gravity always gets me down.

Ask me about my vow of silence.



Sleep



Man is the only animal that goes to sleep when he's not sleepy and gets up when he is.



I'm exhausted, I couldn't get to sleep last night. I tried counting sheep but by the time I'd got to 180,876 it was time to get up again.



I slept like a log last night, I woke up in a fireplace.

Tommy Cooper



A pharmacist is speaking to an elderly patient going over the directions on a prescription bottle. "You have to take a pill every four hours", says the pharmacist. "Be careful not to take them more often than that." "No worries there," replies the patient, "It takes me four hours to get the lid off."

Whatever you may look like, marry a man your own age; as your beauty fades so will his eyesight .

Phyllis Diller

Marriage: "The only union without a shop steward."

Les Dawson



Two men are on safari. They are out hunting in the bush when one calls out to the other, "Here! look at the size of these lion tracks. The brute that made these must be eight feet long." "Good work," says his friend. "You see where they go, and I'll find out where they came from."

A judge addresses Mr. Jones, the defendant in a court case. "Mr. Jones, do you understand that you have sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" says the judge. "I do," says Mr. Jones, "Good" says the judge. "Now, what have you got to say in your defence?" "Well" says Mr. Jones, "under those limitations nothing at all."



When being chased by a police dog try not to go through a tunnel, then on to a little see-saw, then jump through a hoop of fire. They're trained for that.

end with a few imponderables:

- Why is it called an escalator even when it's going down?
- Why is it called a T.V.set when you only get one?
- If you have 50 odds and ends on a shelf and you break 49 of them are you left with an odd or an end?
 - How can they force criminals to do volunteer work? If they are forced then they aren't volunteers.
 - Which disease was it that cured ham used to have?

That's it.



As far as Reg could tell, the burglar had disturbed nothing in the vestry



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







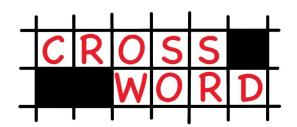
In support of

ME ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT









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Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You are one of them" (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)

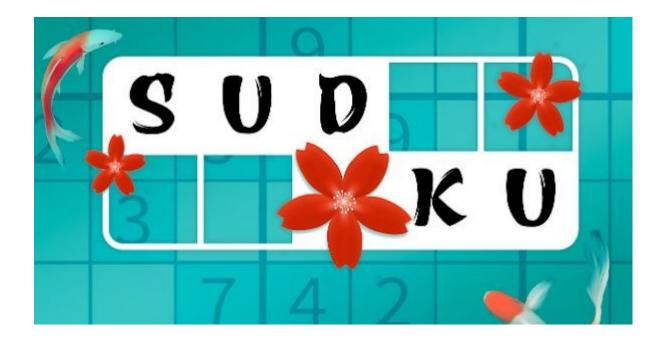
Across

- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (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.

Hello everyone,

Swindon Food Collective is your local independent food bank that collects and redistributes donated non-perishable food and non-food items to those in need. We help individuals and families that are finding it hard to feed themselves for a variety of reasons such as low wages, low income, family crisis, delayed benefit payments, redundancy, bereavement or sickness.



We currently operate 11 Food Distribution Centres in and around Swindon.

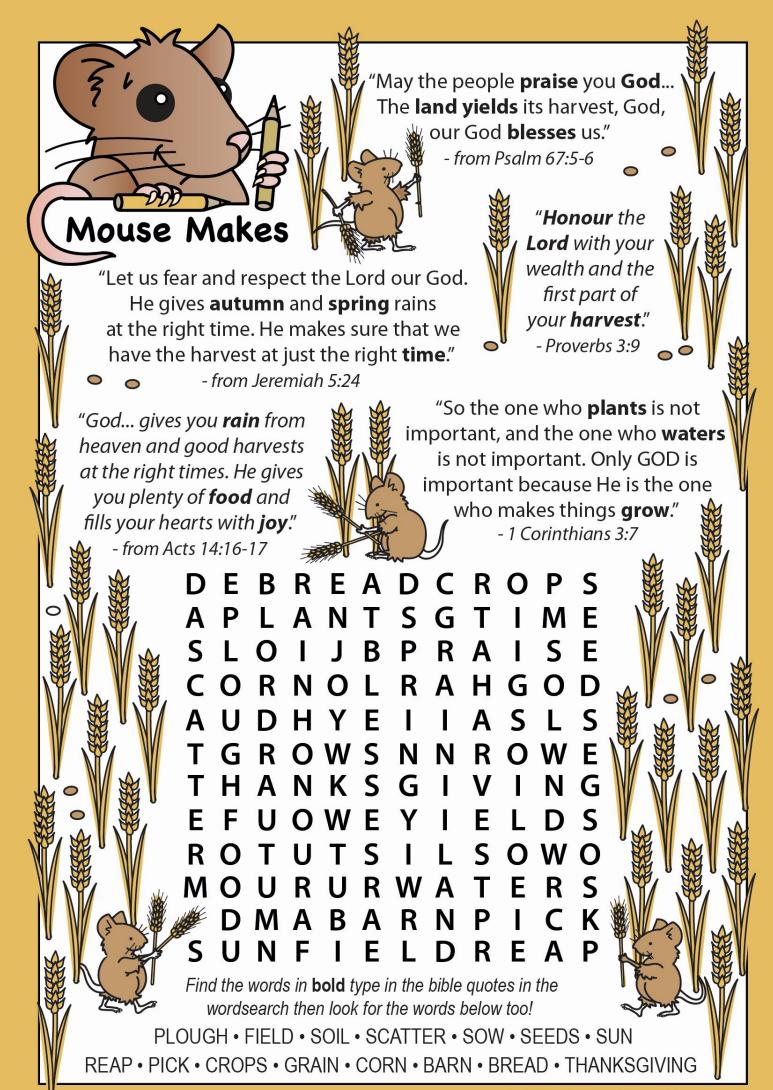
Should you wish to support our collection then please read below for further information.

WHAT WE DO NEED:

Regular sized Tins, Jars, Bottles, Cartons or Packets of the following:

"Potatoes; Meat; Fish; Tomatoes; Soup; Vegetables; Fruit; Puddings; Pasta Sauce; Cereals; Small Jars of Coffee; Tea (40 bags); Small Bags of Sugar (500g); Biscuits; 1L Bottles of Squash; Washing Up Liquid; Toothpaste; Laundry Pods; 2 in 1 Shampoo & Conditioner; Male and Female Deodorants"

We hope you will be able to support us once again THANK YOU.



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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, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

DOWN: 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.

STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE for Articles and Information anytime before 25th September 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



Our Family Service, Caring for You

- Independent family run funeral directors in Swindon
- Compassionate staff who treat every funeral as personal
- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year
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