



SEPTEMBER 2026

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

Mr Ian Jones 07769703385

Anna-Marie Jenkins

Mrs Diane Whitford 824339

Deputy Warden

Mrs June Lewis 822954

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 Church Family

There is a saying that goes around fairly often that goes like this - Before you speak THINK – is it True – is it Helpful – is it Inspiring – is it Necessary – is it Kind? It's fairly easy to see why it is a popular saying at the moment – there are so many examples of people opening their mouths, or tapping into their electronic devices and what comes out is none of the above; and many of those people are, or aspire to be, our leaders.

Words have power, they can persuade, enthuse, encourage, destroy, speak of love or derision, inspire hatred or adoration. They can persuade us how to vote, who to follow, who we believe or not; they can turn on whole groups of people or uniquely hurt just one.



It's easy to let words out of our mouths, most of the words we speak every day we say without thinking and sometimes without considering the effect they will have on those who hear or read our words. Sometimes of course we know exactly the effect our words will have, and we say them anyway.

I hold my leaders to a high standard, and I really dislike the way that some of them whip up bad feeling, and hatred, making people think that there must be us and them, good people and bad, using lies and 'alternative truth' and appealing to the worst in human nature. They talk as if they are allowed to lie and defame others with no challenge at all; they just keep saying the same terrible words louder and more incessantly to convince us they are right or make those who disagree with them give up trying to get a word in edgeways.

But if I am going to hold my leaders to a high standard, I know that I need to do the same for myself.

There's a good checklist in a letter written to the Christians in Ephesus during the 1st Century AD/CE: Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians chapter 4 verses 29-32

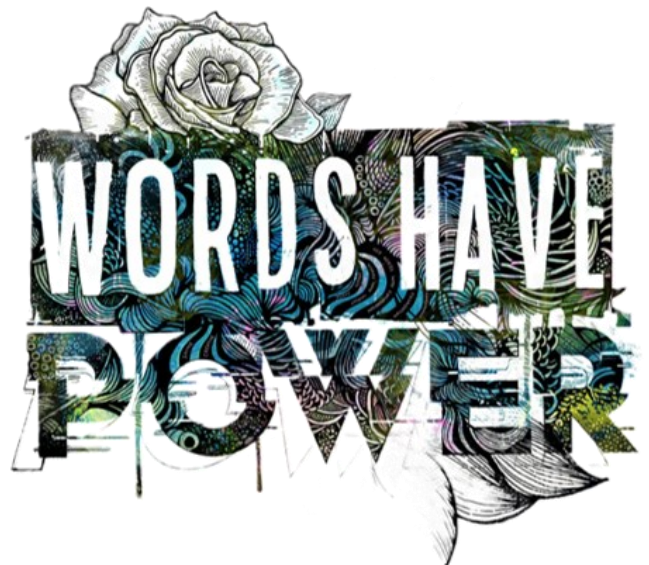
It's not a bad standard to hold oneself to, whether you believe in God or not, and perhaps if we all thought about it more often, including those who get much airtime in our media and the internet trolls, we could change the world into a better, nicer, more honest place.

Knowing myself I often pray with the Psalmist: 'Set a guard over my mouth

Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips.' Psalm 141 verse 3.

Amen

Blessings
Rev Elveen



Thank you to St. Margaret's Church

A little ode to thank you and let you all know,
How grateful I was for the kindness you did show
When I retired as church warden from St. Margaret's,
A job which I loved and have no regrets

The bouquet was amazing with colours oh so bright
Showing some of God's creation, a wonderful sight!

The exquisite painting left me totally in awe
Lost for words, a rare occasion, as you probably saw!

The personal touches made it a pleasure to see
Red hat and stilettos – could it really be me?
Memories of fund raising and fun in the past
Abseiling now would leave me aghast!

To hold this special role brought challenges too
But they have been outweighed by the joys so true!
I've met some wonderful people across the Deanery
And visited beautiful churches set in lovely scenery.



Many thanks to Ian for sharing the mammoth load
The backup team to whom God has special gifts bestowed.

The organists, the choir and the bell ringers too
To Pat and Ray, David and Richard to mention just a few!

The business side of church we may not always see
Health and Safety, Safeguarding and the PCC!
To Coleview, South Marston and Stanton too
It's been such a privilege to work with you.

At the hub of our wheel, the office to share
Thank you to Georgina, for always being there!
Thank you to Lisa for Prosecco and Praise
Such a fabulous way, our voices to raise!

Thank you to Dan for your poems so profound
Inside each one, a message I have found!
And to Alison as she continues her faith walk
And who brings us good thoughts in her talk.



Anna-Marie a new day is dawning for you too
May you feel God's blessings upon you!
And if you find something daunting in a task
There's usually someone around to ask!

Thank you to Charlotte, you slotted right into our team
With a wealth of experiences to share on any theme!
Thank you for your music, the anthems you've composed
Such a talent upon you God has bestowed.

Thank you to Elveen it's been a joy to share with you
Your first post as Vicar and now as Rector too!
Just after you joined us and Covid arrived
You kept us all going online, so we survived!

When pastoral visiting, we've experienced new things
Meeting house bound parishioners, special moments it brings!
We have a vibrant church family, over the years we have grew!
I'll still see you all in church but from a pew!

June Lewis – June 2026



CYPRUS PETS

When my husband was in the Forces, we were stationed in Cyprus for three years and decided our daughters would benefit from having pet rabbits. Sandra chose a glossy black, shy buck and Nicky chose a small white doe. They were named Sooty and Snowy for obvious reasons. Snowy was quite assertive and she needed to be. As they got older Sooty quite proved the saying associated with rabbits. In the hutch or exercising outside, he never left her alone. In the Cyprus heat, she had to duck and dive to avoid him - her ultimate weapon being a swift kick. The thumping noises from the hutch kept us awake on many a night. We were forced to buy another hutch and give Sooty visiting rights, only. They had many broods but only a few survived.

One day when I'd parked my car outside the NAAFI with windows left wide open as usual, someone dumped a tiny kitten in the car which wasn't noticed until I was unloading the shopping. She could only have been a couple of months old. She was petrified and when I took her indoors, she slunk around keeping close to the skirting board. We kept her and after much perseverance, love and food, she became a happy, loving pet.

When the rabbits were let out, we used to put a plank up to the open hutch door so they could go in and out as they pleased. Tibs would walk up the plank and lie down in the hutch, peering through the netting, sometimes accompanied by Sooty.



*Nicola with
Snowy 1970
in Cyprus*

We also inherited a budgie. Its owners were being posted back to Britain so "would we have him or he would have to be put down?". He had already been named Snowy, so we had Snowy Budgie and Snowy Rabbit.

Tibs would hook open the door of his cage and somehow stuff herself inside with bits of fur, ears and paws poking through the bars and Snowy stiffly perched in one corner not daring to move, though Tibs never hurt him.

Snowy Budgie would follow me around the house, claws tapping on the tiled floors. One day she followed me out onto the patio and flew onto the lower branch of the passion fruit tree. Stavros next door, always dressed in traditional Cypriot fashion with black draped trousers swinging around and between his legs, rushed up and grabbing the hose pipe, sprayed the surprised bird, whose feathers were now too wet to fly. He reached up and caught Snowy and gave him to me, all the while talking nineteen to the dozen in Greek, interspersed with a few English words. This was before the phrase "no problem" was coined.

We had delightful Greek Cypriot neighbours on either side of our bungalow in Limassol who were amused by and tolerated our love of animals. Like other Mediterranean people, the Cypriots were very unsentimental themselves.

Marcia Hinton





September



6th September

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

13th September

St Margaret's Church		St Mary Magdalene Church	St Leonard's Church
9:30am	6pm	9:30am	11am
Sunday Morning Worship	Beers & Hymns	Holy Communion Service	Family Service

20th September

St Leonard's Church	10am	Sunday Morning Team Worship
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27th September

St Margaret's Church	St Leonard's Church		Coleview Community Centre
9:30am	9:30am	6pm	11am
Sunday Morning Worship	Holy Communion Service	Compline	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.

The Water of Life

I grew up in an age when vegetables were only available in season sprouts around Christmas and not in July and so on. Our garden was one hundred yards long and entirely cultivated. Autumn saw 12 or more strings of onions hanging in the shed, sacks of potatoes protected from the frost and other vegetables stored for winter. How my father, a boilermaker working a standard five and half day week and resting on Sundays did that and his widowed mother's garden beats me, his life was the norm for the day. Garden hoses were unknown, "The Hoe is better than the Hose" was the mantra. His life was the standard for the day, washing up water was dutifully collected in buckets and 45-gallon drums collecting rainwater proliferated. Until my eighties I too, grew vegetables sufficient onions and beetroot for the year and so on, my hose was used once a year when I cleaned my ornamental fishpond.

Why then today's fuss about banning the use of hosepipes? Water is essential for life here on Earth and its use needs to be wise. Could the use of an Olla be about to expand (The Plural eludes me and my old Latin Master would once again despair at me) An Olla is a porous earthenware pot that, buried in a seed bed with the narrow neck above ground. When filled with water it will water the plants over a long dry spell and uses much less water in the process. These thoughts draw us to Jesus who is the Water of Life and if we believe and as Christians we do; then we have nothing to fear.

Colin Howell



ST MARGARET'S CHURCH

BEER FESTIVAL

Over 20 Beers & Ciders on tap!

Friday, September 11th, 6pm - 10pm

Saturday, September 12th, Noon - 10pm



- ❖ Hot food available
- ❖ Live music on both days

Tickets are £12 per day or £17 for both days, this includes a festival glass and a free drink (2 free drinks for CAMRA members)

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, SN3 4NB /// ducks.lung.furniture

Scan the QR Code to book your tickets

<https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDYyMS04/t>

***Proceeds in aid of St Margaret's Church Building Fund
With 10% to church backed charities***





"Join us, Join in!"

Mothers' Union Swindon Deanery Branch

Our September meeting this month will be on

TUESDAY 8TH and it will be in

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH at 2.30pm

It will be our Wave of Prayer Service led by

Rev Elveen Mead

Everyone is welcome

Do come and join us.

For more info, visit the Bristol MU

website www.mubristol.co.uk



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

Anne Pope - MU Swindon Deanery Area Coordinator

Tuesday – Reconciliation

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

God of peace, draw us together in your love. Where there is division, bring understanding; where there is hurt, bring healing; where there is conflict, bring reconciliation. Help us to build bridges of hope and become instruments of your peace.
Amen

Wednesday – Healing

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. (James 5:16)

God of peace, bring healing where hearts are wounded and relationships are broken. Replace division with understanding and help us to be instruments of your peace and reconciliation. We ask this in Your name.

Amen.

Thursday – Hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

God of hope, fill us with joy and peace as we trust in you. By your Spirit, help us to abound in hope, trusting that your love can bring reconciliation where there is division. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Friday – Unity

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)

God of unity, help us to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Draw us together, bound in Your love, and make us instruments of your peace. We ask this in Your name, our Lord and Redeemer.

Amen.

Saturday - Peace in our hearts and our world

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

God of Peace, plant your peace within our hearts and let it flow into our world. Give us the peace that Christ promises, calming our fears and strengthening our hope. Where there is conflict, bring understanding; where there is division, bring unity. Help us to be instruments of your peace.

Amen.

Final Blessing Prayer

God of mercy and love, we come before You seeking peace and reconciliation. Heal the wounds of division within our hearts, families, and communities.

Teach us to forgive as You forgive, to speak with kindness, and to listen with compassion. May Your Spirit guide leaders toward justice and unity among nations.

Calm our anxious thoughts and renew our spirits with Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Help us to become instruments of Your love, building bridges where walls have stood.

May Your light shine through us, bringing healing, hope, and harmony to a hurting world. In Your name, we pray.
Amen

DID YOU KNOW



What was a Petard?

It was a small, gun powder bomb that in the 16th and 17th centuries was a great risk to the "bomber" attached to the gate of a castle under siege to destroy the gate. If the bomber was not quick enough he could be "Hoist by his own petard"



What is an OLLA?

It is a porous, earthenware pot, of varying dimensions. When buried in the garden with the narrow neck above the surface it can be filled with water and will allow water to seep out watering the plants when the ground is dry over a long period of time before being refilled.

jokes

Creation

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So, they picked one scientist to go and tell Him so.

The scientist walked up to God and said, “God, we’ve decided that we no longer need you. We’re to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things by ourselves.”

God listened very patiently and then replied: “Very well, how about this? Let’s say we have a man-making contest. We’re going to do this just like I did, back in the old days with Adam.”

The scientist said, “Sure, no problem” and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, “No, no, no. You go get your own dirt!”



Wedding guest

A little boy at Sunday School learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and changed the water into wine. “And what did you learn from that story?” asked his father afterward.

The boy thought for a moment and answered, “If you’re having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there.”





Freezer labels

Jane had a system for labelling homemade freezer meals. She would carefully note in large clear letters, ‘Lasagne’, ‘Beef stew’, ‘Chicken casserole’, etc. But every day when she asked her husband what he wanted for dinner, he never asked for any of those meals. So finally, she decided to stock up with his various requests. Nowadays her freezer is full of dinners with neat little tags that say: ‘Whatever’, ‘Anything’, ‘I Don’t Know’, ‘I Don’t Care’, ‘Something Good’, or ‘Food’.

No more frustration for Jane, because no matter what her husband wants for dinner, it’s there waiting.

Retreat

A man with a nagging secret couldn’t keep it any longer. In the confessional he admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the lumberyard where he worked. “What did you take?” his priest asked.

“Enough to build my own house and enough for my son’s house. And houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake.”

“This is very serious,” the priest said. “I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?”

“No, Father, I haven’t,” the man replied. “But if you can get the plans, I can get the lumber.”



Police

A young clergyman, fresh out of theological training, thought it would help him better understand the world if he served as a policeman for a while before taking on a congregation.

He studied hard and passed the exams; passed the physical; and then came the all-important final interview. One question was: “What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?”

He promptly responded, “I would pass an offering plate.” He got the job.





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

19th September & 17th October

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



16th September

Dr Steven Brook

*will be sharing the work of the Street
Pastors with us.*

**St Mary Magdalene
Church
South Marston**

**Invite you for
All Age Worship**

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



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/>

-

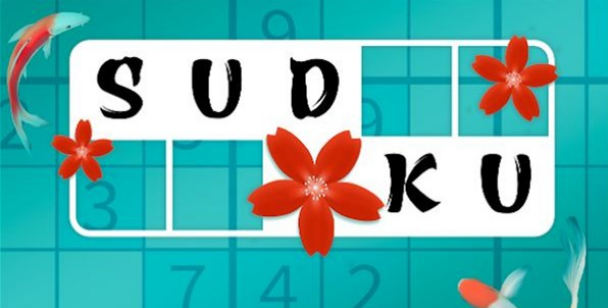
If you haven't considered the PGS before, we would ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. It's very easy to sign up and it works in a similar way to a Direct Debit (that it is intended to replace), in that a regular payment authorised by you goes out either weekly, monthly or yearly straight to the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

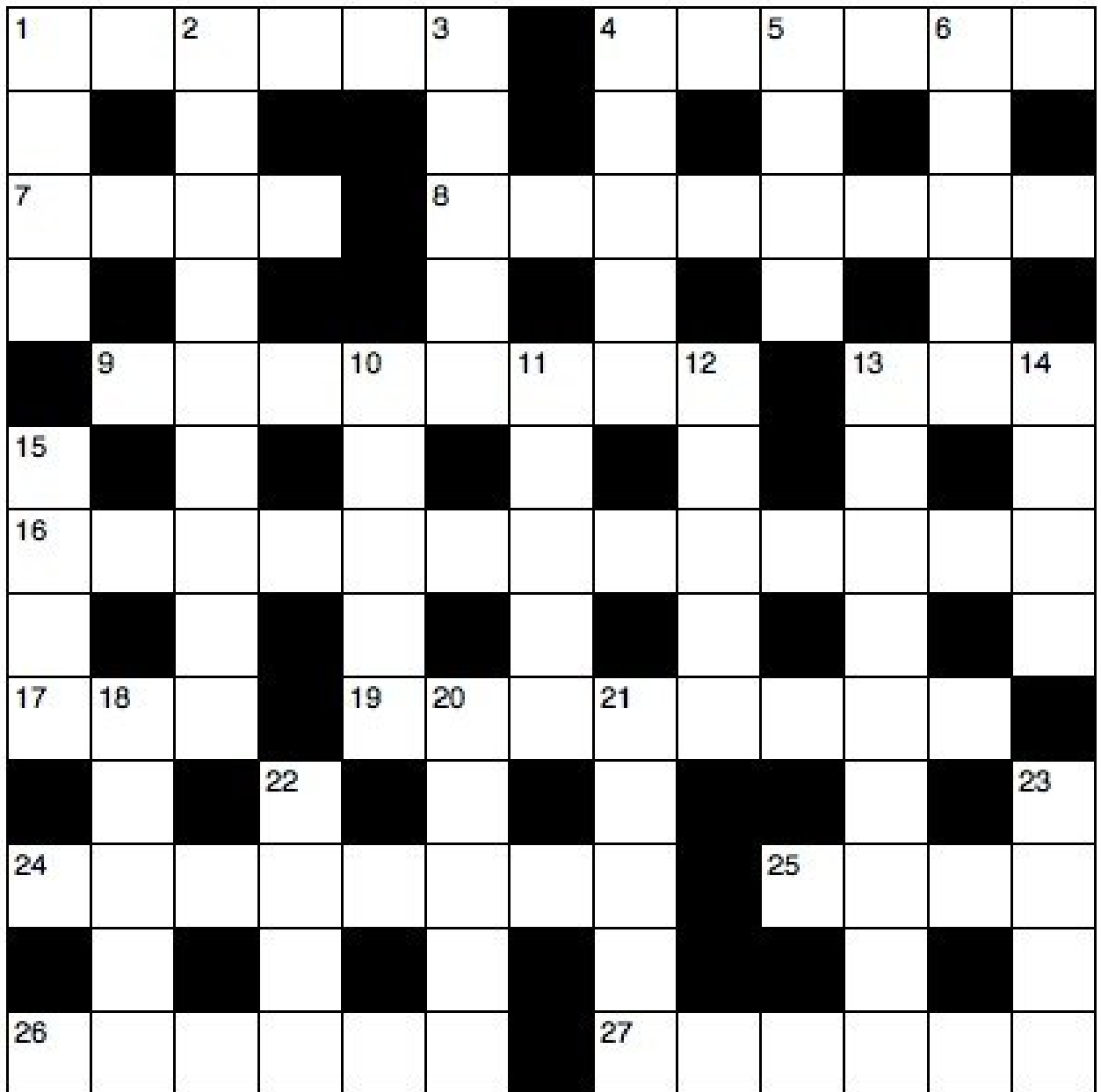
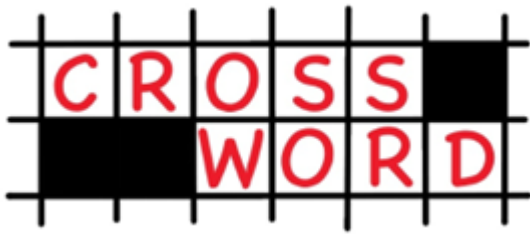
PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME



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

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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.



Across

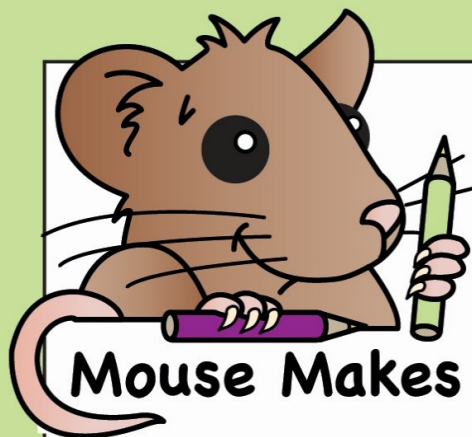
- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)

Across

- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8)
- 24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten(anag.)(5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4)(4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)
- 22 Be distressed(Proverbs24:19)(4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)



THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?

"Go and bear

John 15:16

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?

Thrown into the

and

John 15:6

How many times does Jesus use the word **FRUIT**?



READ
John 15:1-17

What does Jesus command?

To _____
one another.
John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to **LOVE** one another?

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

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:



Supporting
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

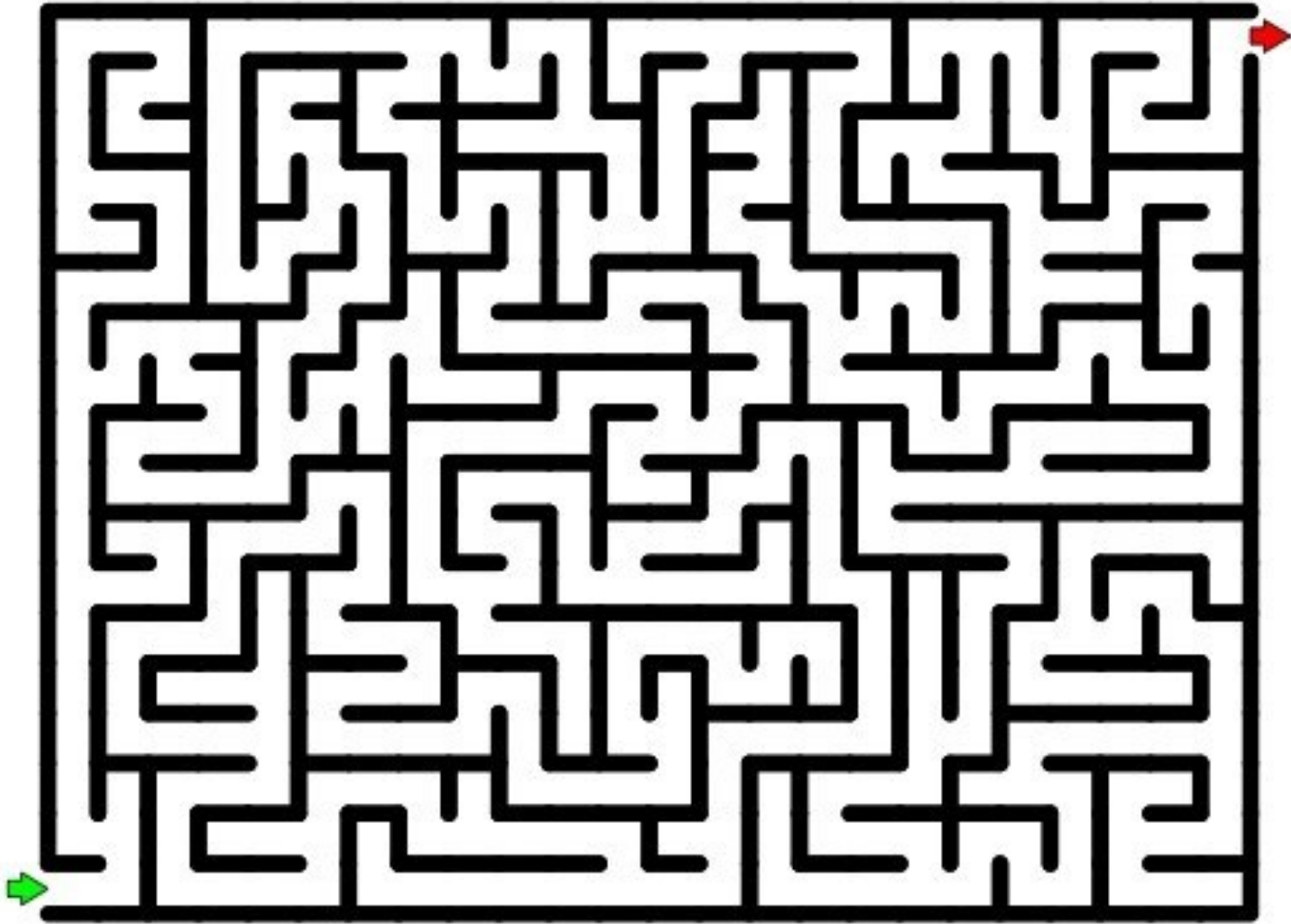
 **RSPCA**
Oak and Furrows

 Campaign Against
Living Miserable
CALM

IMPORTANT

Please ensure these are all sorted into correct bins.

They are taken by various volunteers



Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

DOWN: 1, Lose. 2, Blamerest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE

for Articles and Information anytime before 15th September 2026

Georgina Martin:

Church Office,

Tel: 826505

St Margaret's Centre

Email:

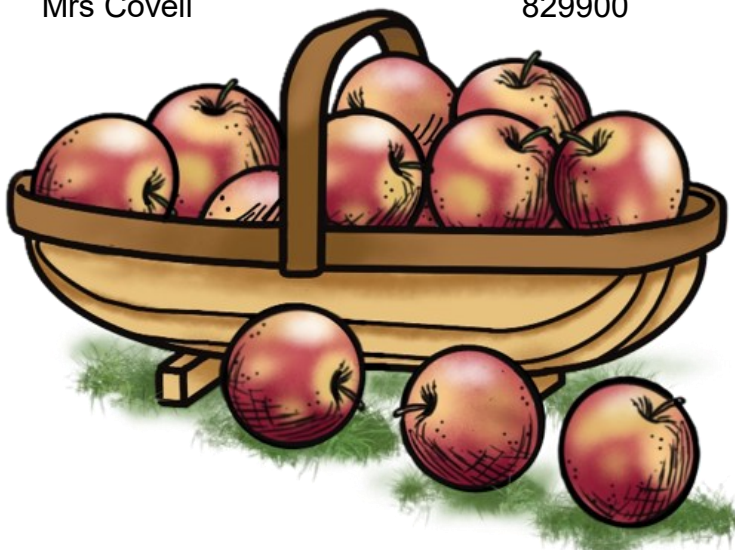
stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

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





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- Over 30 years experience and more than 500 five star reviews

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info@pearcefuneralservices.co.uk



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