

June/July 2026

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The Thurstable
& Winstree
Team Ministry

£1.00

**For Churches in Tiptree, Tolleshunt Knights,
Great Braxted, Messing & Inworth**



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Items for the magazine: can be emailed to thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com or delivered to St Luke's Parish Office or sent to m.borgartz@btinternet.com

Revd Michael writes: June 2026

Watching the London Marathon at the end of April was a day not to be forgotten. Being on the sunny Thames Embankment at the 25 mile marker we saw Sebastian Sawe on his way to winning in the world record time of under 2 hours. With even more eagerness we looked out to see our daughter pass by. That was just two of the nearly 60,000 people competing that day, and 1.1 million people had applied for a place.

The appeal of the event is such that it has grown from there being just 7,000 competitors in 1981. It is part of the world calendar of races for the elite runners and wheelchair athletes, and it is a competition entered by many for whom running is their chosen sport. But for many of the entrants it is an isolated event which they have been inspired to enter for a variety of reasons. For some it is a personal challenge; many are raising funds for a charity that is of significance to them. Some have a target time, others are pleased just to finish the long course. Some even run in fancy dress.

It is common to them all that they will have spent months training. The day has come when they are all in the London Marathon and the huge crowds cheered all of them on their way. At the finish they all received a medal, the satisfaction of having completed the course and of having benefitted many people through the fundraising – a record £87.3 million.

The most memorable aspect of the day for me was the overwhelming atmosphere of goodwill and the encouragement given by the spectators to all the competitors – the more exhausted the runner looked, the louder the cheer of encouragement. I have never been in as dense a crowd of people, but everyone was good-natured and not at all resentful of the friendly stewarding which often directed us away from our chosen route. The common focus of the day brought a unity – it made us a community, even though we were strangers to one another.

Our world, nation and our towns and villages are composed of smaller groupings that share common focus and acceptance of one another. I hope and pray that each of those smaller examples of community, including the church, may inspire all people to love and encourage one another, and to seek the common good.

Revd Michael Hatchett



4th June - Corpus Christi, thanks for Holy Communion

The feast of Corpus Christi was proposed by Thomas Aquinas, focused on the Eucharist or Holy Communion. It celebrates the joy of sharing the Body and Blood of Christ with His presence in the Eucharist, and is usually celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

Today, most Protestant denominations don't acknowledge the festival, because of its association with the doctrine of the Real Presence. However, some Anglican churches do observe it, as the Thanksgiving for Holy Communion.

How do we understand the significance of the Eucharist or Holy Communion? Paul in 1 Corinthians 11: 23-32, points us in three directions.

A Past Commemoration:

The Eucharist *looks back* as we remember the Passover meal Jesus shared with His disciples (Luke 22:14–20). Jesus broke the bread and took the cup to signify that His atoning sacrifice on the Cross delivers us from the bondage of sin and death. As we remember His broken body and shed blood, it becomes personal: Christ died for *me*, suffered for *my* sins that *I* might live. It is truly a *eucharist*, a thanksgiving: '*Do this in remembrance of Me*' (1 Corinthians 11: 24,25).

A Present Communion:

The Eucharist speaks of the communion we enjoy with a living Christ, because our sins are forgiven. Paul encourages us to *look in* at the state of our hearts: '*Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*' (28). We should also *look around* acknowledging the communion we have with other believers. Holy Communion expresses our unity together: '*Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.*' (11:17). Paul is expressing his concerns here about the divisions in the Corinthian Church.

A Future Certainty:

The Eucharist is also a place where we *look forward* to Christ's return: '*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*' (26). It declares that the reign of Christ has already begun, as we look forward to Jesus' return. He will unite earth and heaven under His rule and sin, death and Satan will finally be defeated.

So, when we next take Holy Communion, let's reflect on the past, present and future implications of what this meal means for us.





All Saints' Church, Gt Braxted, CM8 3EN

You are welcome to join us for our services at any time.

Services of Parish Communion for 2026:

5th April 11.15 am Easter Day Parish Communion

3rd May 11.15 am Parish Communion

and on 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September, 4th October

Our usual pattern of services with Parish Communion at 11.15 am on the first Sunday of the month continues through until October.

On Sunday 20th December 11.15 am we invite you to join us for our usual Carol Service

Wedding couples establishing a qualifying connection are also able to attend St Luke's Tiptree, CO5 0SU any Sunday of the month at 9.30 am.

Our church is currently in vacancy.

While we recruit a new Team Vicar, for any enquiries please telephone Revd Liz Barnes, 01621 333027

or, contact our Team Administrator, Christine Hall

thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com

CHAT FROM YOUR CHURCHWARDEN

I am writing this chat to you the day after Bob and I return from our wonderful trip to London to the Kings Garden Party, I hope you enjoy reading the article about that lovely day out.

Since I last wrote we have had a wonderful Easter Season and I hope you enjoyed the many services the team arranged for you. We thank them all so much for all the hard work they put into them and I hope you were inspired by this years Easter message.

170th Anniversary Please continue to have a look through your photos etc for things related to St Luke's which we can use for our displays over the weekend of 17th October. You may have a photo of one of our Fetes, or some of a wedding held at the church all these things tell the story of St Luke's please may we borrow them?

Christmas 2026 Thank you to those of you who have pledged some bottles for our bottle stall at the Christmas Coffee Morning on 12th December. I have now cleared a space in my workroom so in June I will be happy to take them home and put the numbers on them. Thank You.

FOSL I am very pleased to report since my last chat that we have had some people come forward to help on the FOSL team. Thank you to those lovely people. If anyone else would like to join us please do speak to me and I will give you further information and pass your name to the FOSL Team. We have lots of lovely events coming up including a Jazz night with Andy. This is always a lovely evening please come and join us on 13th June.

Big Project I mentioned this in my last chat. We had a very good meeting on 16th April and following the APCM later this month we will get together again and form a plan of action. If you have knowledge of Grant Processes and like fundraising you are very welcome to join us or forward information to us which will help us. Thank you.

A Big Thank You to everyone on the PCC for all the hard work they are putting in during our Vacancy and to you our Congregation for your continued support.

Sheila Gunson

One of the Churchwardens at St Luke's

Can you help?

Baptisms

We need some more people to help out at baptisms that are not held within a Sunday service. This is not an onerous task, it involves helping to set up, being a welcoming face, handing out service orders and showing families where to sit.

At the moment there are a very limited number who do this and it would be nice to have a group of people we could call on to help.

If you think you could help us, please speak to Revd Liz, or a Churchwarden.



Crucifer

At the moment we are down to one Crucifer, with Norman stepping in as emergency cover. If you think you would be able to join us on the rota please speak to Wendy. If you would like to have a try outside of a service you would very welcome. Training would be given as to what is involved.

1st June - Justin Martyr, first ever Christian philosopher

Justin Martyr (c. 100 – 165), is regarded as the first ever Christian philosopher. He was born at Nablus, Samaria, to parents of Greek origin, and was well educated in rhetoric, poetry and history before he turned to philosophy. He studied at Ephesus and Alexandria and tried the schools of the Stoics, the Pythagoreans, and the Platonists. Then in c 130 Justin became a Christian, and never looked back. His long search for truth was satisfied by the Bible, and above all by Christ, the Word of God.

This apologist and martyr is known as the most important early 'apologist'. He went on to offer a reasoned defence for Christianity, explaining that it was the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies. Justin's aim was evangelism: he thought that pagans would turn to Christianity if they were made aware of Christian doctrine and practice.

Justin's martyrdom took place in the reign of Marcus Aurelius, along with six other believers. At his trial, whose authentic record survives, he clearly confessed his Christian beliefs, refused to sacrifice to the gods, and accepted suffering and death. As he had previously said to the emperor: "You can kill us, but not hurt us."

Saturday 13th June 2026

Jazz @ *St Luke's Hall*

Church Road, Tiptree, CO5 0SU

Jazz, Funk and Soul
with The Andy Brush Quintet
*featuring vocalist **Jessica Sillett***

Tickets £15 - available from
The Computer Guys Unit 1 100 Church road

Doors open 7pm
Music starts 7.45pm

Refreshments
available in
the interval
for a donation



New Parochial Church Councils

Following the conclusion of the various APCM's across the team the new PCC's are as follows:

All Saints, Inworth

Rev'd Liz Barnes

Rev'd Christine Newmarch

Jane Walker (Churchwarden, Deanery Synod & Team Council)

Sue Bunting (Secretary & Team Council)

Rev'd Michael Hatchett (Treasurer)

Brenda Taylor

Yvonne Towler

Mark Walker

All Saints, Messing

Rev'd Liz Barnes

Rev'd Christine Newmarch

Helen Longman (Churchwarden & Deanery Synod)

Anne Buckingham (Churchwarden)

Paul Buckingham (Assistant Churchwarden)

Andrew Harding (Lay Vice Chair & Team Council)

Paul Marven (Treasurer & Team Council)

Anne Wild (Secretary & Team Council)

Kate Jackson

St. Luke's Tiptree

Rev'd Liz Barnes

Rev'd Christine Newmarch

Clive Eastbrook (Churchwarden & Lay Vice-Chair)

Sheila Gunson (Churchwarden)

Sue Lyne (Assistant Churchwarden & Team Council)

Sue Long (Secretary)

Martin Borgartz (Treasurer, Deanery Synod & Team Council)

Rev'd Christine Eaton

Harold Toms (Deanery Synod & Team Council)

Wendy Borgartz (Deanery Synod & Team Council)

Diana Webb

Linda Morrison

Jane Lawrence

Ian Calvert

Alison Weston

Mike Puttick

Eric Wilson

Books of the Bible

Canon Paul Hardingham

Old Testament: Ezekiel

Ezekiel was a prophet who proclaimed judgment to God's people in the 6th century BC. He was among the group of Jews exiled in Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. Ezekiel received his call when he was 30 years old through a vision of the glory of God. His ministry finished 22 years later with a vision of the restored Temple in Jerusalem.

Ezekiel spoke to a community forced from its home, who had broken faith with God. He presents a God who rules over all people and history. He is a God who desires to be known and acknowledged (*"then they will know that I am the Lord"*). As a priest, Ezekiel was deeply concerned with the holiness of God. This call to holy living includes an emphasis on individual responsibility (chapter 18), which is a significant milestone in biblical thought.

Ezekiel offers a vision of true hope for those who have undergone judgment. He promises a restored Temple as a sign of God's presence among his people. He also promises a future *'prince'* who will rule with justice and restore God's relationship with his people (34:23-4).

In restoring them morally and spiritually, God promises to use them to bring light to the Gentiles. They will demonstrate the holiness of God's name, because they will know him from the heart. This is the promise that is fulfilled in Jesus and made possible for us:

'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.' (36: 26-27).

Old Testament: Colossians

This month we return to look at the books of the New Testament. Many today are asking: *'How does Jesus uniquely reveal God to us?'* This question lies at the heart of Paul's letter to the Colossians. The church in Colossae was a fruit of his three years ministry in Ephesus (52-55 AD). Paul went on to write this letter while in a Roman prison around 61 AD.

Paul was dealing with gnostic false teachers who denied that Jesus was fully God and man. They taught that enlightenment could be reached through special knowledge and rigorous self-discipline.

Paul attacked this false teaching by focusing on the supremacy of Christ: *'in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have this fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority'* (2:9-10).

He affirms that Jesus is:

Lord of all Creation, who sustains everything. As the exact representation of God, He is first-born over all creation (1:15-17) and there is no place for worshipping angels or any other power (2:18).

Head of the Church (1:18), to whom the Colossians should submit (2:6, 7) and not be seduced by vain speculations (1:16-18).

Supreme Saviour (3:11), who has defeated all spiritual powers on the cross (2:15), allowing them to share in the power of His resurrection (2:20). All are adopted into His family and so there are no special qualifications needed to experience God's favour (2:8-20).

In chapters 3&4 Paul demonstrates the practical implications for the Christian's daily life. We are challenged to abandon the old life and cultivate our new life in Christ (3:5-4:6). If we maintain Jesus as our Lord, He will prove truly sufficient for all our needs.

Parish Pump

Parent & Toddlers at St Luke's

Meet here every
MONDAY morning
9.15am - 11.15am

(includes holidays, but not bank holidays) photo by Marcus Spiske Unsplash



Everyone welcome! Parents
or carers, grandparents,
friends and childminders.



Meet up, have a chat, relax and play!



There is a small charge of
£2.00 per family - drinks &
biscuits are included



Further information from Margaret Peek 01621 810804
or Maureen Horn 01621 817497

Team Rector Update

Last issue we reported that the post of Team Rector had been advertised in the Church Times. Unfortunately there were no applicants this time around, although the Archdeacon has said that this not unusual with almost all posts taking more than one round of advertising to fill at present. The post is about to be readvertised in the Church Times, and is listed on the Diocesan website. Closing date for applications is 22nd July with interviews scheduled for September. Unfortunately the school summer holiday period is in the way for interviews any earlier.

National Biscuit Day – 29th May

Did you know that Britain is the country with the highest biscuit consumption in the world?

According to industry research, we each eat about 500 biscuits a year. And the great biscuit dunking debate - over which biscuit holds up best when dipped in tea – can spark surprisingly passionate discussion.

Biscuits have been part of our daily lives for centuries. Their dose of sweet, tasty comfort is loved by 2-year-olds and 90-year-olds, and every age in between.

And so National Biscuit Day is held each year to honour this beloved snack. Our national favourite seems to be the chocolate digestive, followed by shortbread and chocolate fingers. But don't underestimate the appeal of custard creams, hobnobs, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies!

The McVitie's Digestive, first produced in 1892, is one of the most iconic biscuits in British history. Today, it remains a bestseller alongside other classics like the Rich Tea, the Bourbon, and the Jammie Dodger.

The word 'biscuit' comes from the Latin *panis biscoctus*, meaning 'twice-cooked bread'. In Roman times, flour-based provisions were baked twice, to remove moisture, making them durable enough for long journeys. Ancient Egyptian sailors and Roman soldiers relied on these early biscuits as a portable, long-lasting food source.

The transformation from practical sustenance to sweet treat began around the seventh century, when Persian bakers added eggs, butter, cream, and eventually sugar and honey to their recipes, creating some of the earliest cookies in history. By the Middle Ages, biscuits had spread across Europe, with each region developing its own favourite.

The Industrial Revolution brought mass production to the biscuit world. British firms like McVitie's, Huntley and Palmers, and Carr's produced biscuits on an unprecedented scale. In 1831, Huntley and Palmers even invented the decorative biscuit tin, which not only kept biscuits fresh but also made them an attractive gift item.

Our British bumblebees

Did you know we have about 270 kinds of bee in the UK, including 24 types of bumblebees? Here are just six of them:

Early Bumblebee: - Found throughout the UK. Rather small, with distinctive lemon-yellow bands on thorax and abdomen, and an orange tail. An important pollinator of our soft fruit.

Common Carder Bee: - One of our most common bees, and often still feeding in November. Fluffy, brown and orange, with sometimes darker bands on the abdomen.

Tree Bumblebee: - Found in England and Wales, and recently Southern Scotland. A fuzzy bee, with brown-orange hairs on its thorax, a black abdomen, and a white tail.

Red-tailed Bumblebee: - The female is very large, with a big red 'tail', while males are smaller.

Garden Bumblebee: - A scruffy-looking large bee, with a long tongue and face. It has yellow bands at the collar, rear of the thorax and at the first segment of the abdomen, and the tip of the tail is white.

Buff-tailed bumblebee: - The biggest of our bumblebees, with a yellow collar near the head and another on the abdomen. The queen has a buff-coloured 'tail', while the workers have white 'tails' and black hair on their faces.

Be kind to our bees. They are in steady decline across the UK.

Parish Pump



Perhaps he's heard that we're losing our churchwarden



"Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting, 'So far, so good...?'"

Book the Hall

for your meeting, group or event

we are in St Luke's Church Extension, St Luke's Church,
Church Road, Tiptree, CO5 0SU



**Good rates and
improved facilities!**



Hourly Rate:

£20 - regular bookings

£23 - one-off bookings

both including use of all facilities & kitchen

Wi-fi available for group leaders or speakers

(discuss your needs when making your booking)



Bookings & Enquiries to:

Gareth Williams: 07857 632603

hall.stluketiptree@btinternet.com

Find us on Facebook:  / tiptreechurchhall

Regular Hall Bookings, at St Luke's:

For all hall bookings call Gareth Williams

07857 632603

Email: hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com

Weekly	Morning:	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Parent & Toddlers; Chair Yoga		Vocalise Choir
Tuesday	Tiptree Volunteers Coffee Morning, (2 nd & 4 th Tues)	Chair Pilates, Up in Lights Dance, Ballroom Dancing	
Wednesday	Slimming World		regular private booking
Thursday	Sound Collective Coffee Morning & Choir	U3A Choir (2 nd & 4 th Thurs)	
Friday	Tiptree Art Club	Chair Pilates	
Sunday	Coffee after Service	KYDS Youth Drama Society	

Monthly

Sunday	Sunday Club <i>please contact the church for details – thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com</i>		
Monday	Singing for the Brain (Tiptree Community Hub Group – 2 nd & 4 th Monday)		
Tuesday	Little City (3 rd Tuesday morning)		
Wednesday	U3A Line Dance (2 nd Wednesday afternoon) Tiptree Tiplers (3 rd evening in month); U3A Tai Chi 2.30 pm (3 rd Wednesday); U3A Tai Chi 1.30 pm (4 th Wednesday)		
Thursday	U3A History (1 st afternoon), Tiptree Garden Club (1 st evening), Flower Club (2 nd evening), St Luke's Ladies Group (3 rd evening)		
Friday	Messy Church (1 st Friday afternoon), Priory Heath WI (2 nd Friday afternoon in the month) Games Afternoon (4 th Friday afternoon)		

If you are interested in making contact with any of the groups listed, please contact the Hall Bookings Administrator on hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com

Find us on Facebook:  / tiptreechurchhall

May 2026

Notices found in church newsletters – that didn't quite come out right!

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the vicar's sermons.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: 'Break Forth Into Joy.'

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last weekend in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.

At the church meeting last week, the rector spoke briefly and delighted the audience.

Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help!

Report on the search for a new minister (tongue in cheek!)

A small church in a rural area was looking for a new minister. This was their progress report to the congregation:

We do not have a happy report to give. We are still struggling to find a suitable candidate for this church. The following are our present candidates:

Adam: Good man, but problems with his wife. Also, one reference told of how he and his wife enjoy walking nude in the woods.

Noah: Former pastorate of 120 years with no converts. Prone to unrealistic building projects.

Abraham: Thinks that God is telling him to go somewhere, but he can't say exactly where. Also, he has offered to share his own wife with another man.

Joseph: A big thinker, but a braggart, believes in dream-interpreting, and has a prison record.

Moses: A modest and meek man, but poor communicator, even stuttering at times. Sometimes blows his stack and acts rashly. Some say he left an earlier church over a murder charge.

David: The most promising leader of all, until we discovered the affair he'd had with his neighbour's wife, and there are rumours he even killed her husband.

Solomon: Great preacher, very smart, but our parsonage would never hold all those wives.

Elijah: Prone to depression - collapses under pressure.

Elisha: Reported to have lived with a single widow while at his former church.

Hosea: A tender and loving pastor, but our people could never handle his wife's occupation.

Deborah: Female.

Jeremiah: Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always lamenting things, and reported to have taken a long trip to bury his underwear on the bank of foreign river.

Isaiah: On the fringe? Claims to have seen angels in church. Has trouble with his language.

Jonah: Refused God's call into ministry until he was forced to obey by getting swallowed up by a great fish. He told us the fish later spit him out on the shore near here. We hung up.

Amos: Too backward and unpolished. With some seminary training he might have promise but has a hang-up against wealthy people. Might fit in better in a poor congregation.

John: Says he is a Baptist, but he doesn't dress like one. Has slept outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

Peter: Too blue collar. Has a bad temper—even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive, and a loose cannon.

Paul: Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, harsh and has been known to preach all night. We don't want that.

Timothy: Too young.

Jesus: Has had popular times, but once when his church grew to 5000, he managed to offend them all and this church dwindled down to twelve people. Seldom stays in one place very long. And, of course, he's single.

Judas: His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We're inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.

Parish Pump

Feed the birds – but thoughtfully

If you enjoy feeding the birds, you are not alone. Up to 60% of all households in the UK regularly feed their wild birds, according to surveys from UK Pet Food. It all adds up to an estimated £250 million in sales annually, with roughly 150,000 tonnes of seed being sold.

When feeding wild birds, here are five mistakes to avoid:

Not keeping the feeders clean. This can spread disease. The RSPB advises cleaning bird feeders once a week with a mild soap such as washing-up liquid. Do it outside, using brushes that you keep for this job alone.

Leaving too much food out. It attracts rodents. Instead, the RSPB advises that little and often is best. But keep an eye on those feeders and keep them topped up. When birds are nest-building and raising broods, they need a lot of energy. Feed peanuts in a rigid mesh feeder, so that large piece of nut cannot choke baby birds. Avoid putting out fat in hot weather – it can go rancid.

Feeding bread. This can lead to malnutrition. Bread is high in carbohydrates, while garden birds require a protein-rich and high-calorie diet. A chick with a stomach full of bread can freeze to death overnight. Ideally, feed a combination of mealworms, seeds, sunflower hearts, dried fruit, peanuts and fat.

Forgetting to provide water. Birds need to drink and bathe daily, especially in hot weather. Change the water every day and keep the basin clean.

Putting feeders in the wrong place. Place your feeders near to shrubs, trees and bushes, to provide cover. Blackbirds and robins are ground feeders, whereas tits and sparrows prefer to feed from hanging stations. Using an array of feeders will attract a wide range of birds.

Parish Pump



Friends of St Luke's present



TEA DANCE

with Afternoon Cream Tea

No partner necessary, just come along and have fun

Saturday 20th June 2026
2pm to 4pm



£10 per head

Entry includes refreshments and cream tea
Raffle



St Luke's Church Hall, Tiptree CO5 0SU

Contact Sandra Redgewell to book at
foslbookings@gmail.com

The story behind the HYMN: Lord, for the years

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.*

*Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.*

*Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.*

*Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.*

**Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.
By Timothy Dudley Smith*

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, on his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse* for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn were true for Queen Elizabeth herself. She would have celebrated her 100th birthday this April, and her 'official' birthday on the second Saturday in June. She did indeed thank God 'for the years Your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way'...

And so indeed the 'extra'* verse added for the Queen also held true:

*Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

Remembering John Constable

by Tim Lenton

It was 250 years ago, on 11th June 1776, that John Constable, British landscape artist, was born.

Widely known as a painter in the Romantic tradition, Constable had a deeply conservative faith centred on the Church of England, which he viewed as an essential stabilising force in society. His painting of Salisbury Cathedral is regarded as a symbol of this.

Born in East Bergholt, Suffolk, to a wealthy corn merchant who owned Flatford Mill, he was expected to take over the business: although he was the second son, the eldest was regarded as incapable. But John Constable was always focused on painting, and the business was eventually taken over by his younger brother.

Constable enjoyed painting the areas he knew well – primarily those on the border of Suffolk and Essex which is now known as Constable Country. “Painting is but another word for feeling,” he wrote to a friend. He regarded nature as a reflection of God’s creation and his own work as spiritual, though a tour of the Lake District in 1806 did not convince him of the attraction of mountains.

He is now highly valued, but he was never successful financially in his own lifetime, though he was elected to the Royal Academy at the age of 52. He was more popular in France than in England, but refused invitations to travel to promote his work, saying he would rather be a poor man in England than a rich man abroad.

After the death through tuberculosis of his wife Maria Bicknell at the age of 41, Constable became depressed: it had been a love match that triumphed over opposition from her wealthy relatives, and he was left a widower with seven young children. He continued to paint, but in a different style, darker and semi-abstract, but still compelling.

Parish Pump

The Nation’s favourite churches, and favourite stained-glass window

The East Window in Carlisle Cathedral has been declared the nation’s favourite stained-glass window (in a recent survey by the Association of English Cathedrals).

As our favourite church, there is no one clear winner, but the following 10 churches are consistently high as among the most loved in the country, according to data from the National Churches Trust:

St Paul’s Cathedral London; York Minster; Coventry Cathedral; St Mary’s Redcliffe, Bristol; Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham; Durham Cathedral; Lincoln Cathedral; St Bride Fleet Street; and Tundergarth Parish Church.

Claire Borgartz's Wedding

As some of you may be aware, Martin & Wendy's daughter, Claire, married Micheal Kingston on 23rd May in Wiltshire. Claire, before University and moving away, was a member of St. Luke's choir and a member of St. Luke's PCC.



Sheila Gunson

Buckingham Palace Garden Party

Back in February on a dull grey Tuesday afternoon I received a phone call from the Assistant Clerk to the Lieutenancy County of Essex. These days one is cautious with phone calls but the information the lady gave me confirmed this was a genuine call.

I was asked if I was available on one of three dates in May as I was being invited to The Kings Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in honour of the voluntary work I have done over many years. WOW what a lovely surprise!!! I was allowed to take someone with me so I asked my partner Bob Hayes if he would join me.



Our formal invitations arrived along with various instructions and dress codes. Bob and I decided to go up to London the day before the Garden Party and stay the night after as well and what a lovely time we had.

We were two of 8000 guests who arrived at 3pm at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday 6th May. Everyone was beautifully attired lots of hats and pretty dresses and men handsome in their suits. The lawn at the back of the palace was ablaze with colour.

At 4pm The King, Queen, Princess Ann, Sophie and Edward appeared on the Terrace and walked down amongst us. A selection of people were presented to the Royal Family and all looked relaxed and happy. Sadly we were not

one of those selected but the pride of those who were was lovely to see.

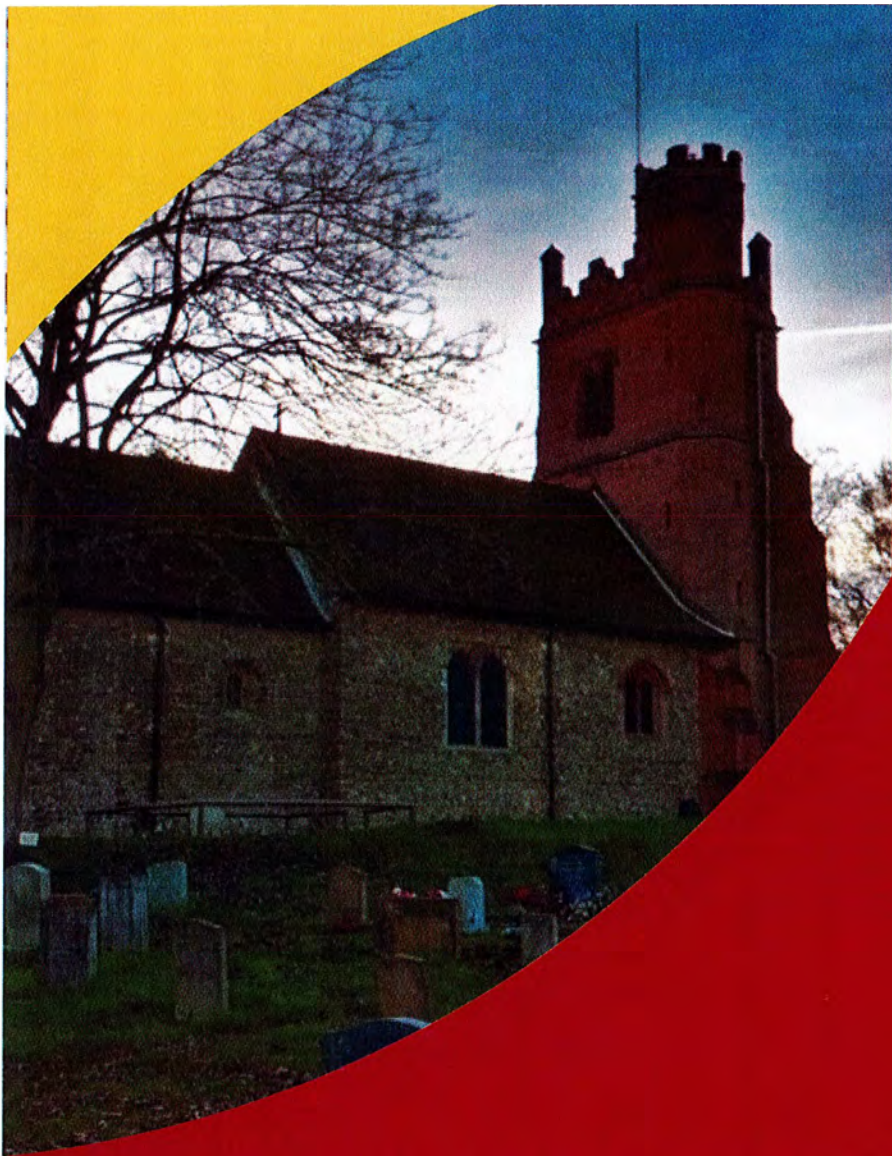
There was a huge tea tent and a wonderful tea was served to us. Cucumber sandwiches (with no crusts) and a beautiful selection of cakes. Lovely.

Now I know you are going to ask were there enough toilets for 8,000 people? Yes there were and at the time we needed to use them neither of us had to queue!!!

It was lovely to wander around the garden which looked beautiful and fresh and to be a part of this grand occasion and to represent the people of Tiptree and all those I have worked with over many years especially the ladies of the Farleigh Craft Group and the team at St Luke's. I was very proud to be there and thank you for your support of all these years.

Sheila Gunson





Scan the QR code to find out more about ringing in Essex

Does the **peal of bells** give your heart a lift?
Come and talk to us about joining our **friendly team of ringers** at

All Saints Church Inworth

Enjoy contributing to a special part of our local community



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
JEAN MULLANE 07410 569400
PRACTICE NIGHT IS ALTERNATE TUESDAYS 7:45 - 9:00PM**

The Essex Association of Change Ringers takes the safety of children and vulnerable adults seriously
Charity number: 292250

School assembly songs to inspire new worshipping communities for children

A major new programme will see the launch of worshipping communities for children and families, based on songs that are already popular in school assemblies.

iSingPOP will support 300 churches to create new gatherings where families from local primary schools will be invited to explore faith together, drawing on the energetic worship songs children already know from school.

The aim is to connect collective worship in schools to engagement with church for families interested in growing in faith together. The programme has received £500k investment from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB). iSingPOP, from the charity Innervation Trust, produces vibrant worship songs that engage more than 77,000 children every week, alongside resources that equip teachers, clergy and volunteers to lead faith-based music sessions in schools and churches.

It also brings schools, churches, and the community together by giving churches the opportunity to host a large joy-filled concert, teaching children songs that explore the Christian faith over four days, culminating in a whole-school performance to parents. This approach has already inspired many families to explore faith beyond the school gates.

Through the new programme, iSingPOP will help to link worship in schools with the life of local churches.

Miz Porter, Director of iSingPOP by Innervation Trust, said: “For 25 years, we have been working with churches and schools to create inspirational collective worship resources that uplift children.

“We believe intergenerational worship has the power to introduce whole families to the Gospel, and we are delighted that this new programme will help churches across the country to deepen their relationships with local schools.”

Parish Pump

Beware bread for ducks

The Canal & River Trust, which looks after Britain’s waterways, has warned that bread is ‘junk food’ for ducks. It can lead to excessive droppings, which spread disease. If bread is left to rot, it can trigger noxious odours which can kill fish and encourage algae, as well as rats and mice. So – what DO ducks eat? Try corn, peas, lettuce and seeds.

Smile

Quiet prayers

The little boy was saying his go-to-bed prayers in a very low voice.

"I can't hear you, dear," his mother whispered.

"Wasn't talking to you," said the small one firmly.

For the wicked

A little boy had been very naughty and as a punishment his mother told him he would go without his favourite vegetable. He sat down for a meal, and his mother served, carrots, corn, - - and ? "It's no use waiting," said his mother, "I told you, no peas for the wicked."

Golf

Golfer: "I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this course."

Caddie: "Try heaven, you've already moved most of the earth."

Going somewhere

Older people often go to another room to get something, and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for.

This is not a memory problem. It is God's way of helping older people get more exercise.

What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means, Daddy."

His father smiled "Okay. What does the Bible mean?"

"It's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

Breakable

There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

Who's been good?

A father of five young children won a toy at a raffle. Back home, he called his children together to let them determine which one should have the present. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to Mother? Who does everything she says?"

Five small voices answered in unison: "You, Daddy!"

Swear

You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.

CITY

Churches In Tiptree Youth



Now including
Late Lounge
an additional &
later monthly
activity for young
people in or
beyond school
year 10

**An inclusive Christian faith based Youth Club
for young people in school years 7* – 13 (ages
11 – 19) * open to year 6 from Easter**

Fridays, Term Time, 7pm – 8:45pm

@ Tiptree URC, Chapel Road

**Fun, games, sports, cooking,
lifeskills, snacks, conversation**

Want to know more?

Contact: andy@tiptreeyp.org



CITY CITY CITY CITY

Churches In Tiptree Youth



Messy Church !



Join us here at
St Luke's Church:
after school on

- **Friday 5th June**
- **Friday 3rd July**

back in September

from 3 pm to 5.30 pm

For:

**A simple
meal
Songs
Friends
Games**



**Activities
Stories
Crafts**

a short service

St Luke's Church, Church Road Tiptree, CO5 0SU

 Find us on Facebook: [/tiptreestlukes](https://www.facebook.com/tiptreestlukes)

A joy and privilege to be received by the Pope, says Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury has praised the Pope for speaking out against injustice and about hope; has commended working together for the common good; and has endorsed the strengthening power of common witness, in an address after a recent private meeting at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican.

She prayed with Pope Leo and said: “It is a joy and a privilege to be received by you, together with this delegation from Lambeth Palace.”

She said: “Your Holiness, you have spoken powerfully about the many injustices in our world today, but you have spoken even more powerfully about hope. The world needed this message at this time — thank you. It reminded us that, despite our sufferings, people long for life in all its fullness, and countless people are working each day for this vision of the common good.”

She continued: “May we continue to work together in that hope, trusting that the one who has begun this good work among us will bring it to completion. Please be assured of a warm welcome for the Church of England should you honour the United Kingdom with a visit.”

Eustace King

& Birkin Funeral Directors

*Independent family funeral directors who pride ourselves on
caring for our local community in their hour of need.*

Tiptree (01621) 819145
87 Church Road, Tiptree, Essex. CO5 0HB

Email: tiptree@ekbirkin.com

On the struggle for life in a rectory

The Rectory
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Ah, the joys of June! At last, I can return to the Rectory without putting on my overcoat before going inside. For the next four months, all windows and doors are left open, in order to let the heat *in*. If anyone else tells me how lucky I am to live in an 10-bedroom Queen Anne house, I shall have them excommunicated.

You will soon stop complaining about your one-bedroom flat should you ever have to live in a rural rectory; the days of wandering about your home in shirtsleeves will become a distant memory. In my first winter here, I had the central heating on full blast 24 hours a day. The house was almost warm, even if the boilers sounded like the Queen Mary coming into port. But that quarter's gas bill needed a substantial grant from the International Monetary Fund to cover it, so ever since, for six months of the year, I live in the kitchen. Parishioners find it either touching or sad that I sleep with my Labrador. It never occurs to them that I need her for extra heat.

It does mean that evening meetings at the rectory on winter evenings can be un-Christianly satisfying. Watching committee members fighting – with infinite politeness - to get nearest to the one-bar electric fire is highly entertaining. They hold on to their coffee cups less for refreshment, more for a little extra warmth. At least it means that meetings are short.

My predecessor was a model railway enthusiast and so several bedrooms were taken up with a system of such complexity that it made Crewe Junction seem trivial. He also found it helpful to put his teenage son in the turret bedroom, where he could play his drums without anyone else in the house being able to hear a thing.

Nowadays, all these extra rooms are filled with cribs and nativity play costumes, Easter gardens and spare choir cassocks. It is remarkable how all these things used to be stored quite satisfactorily in the church vestry until the parish acquired a single priest; now the empty rooms in the rectory have become vital storage space. I so hope my successor has a plethora of children, so that the parishioners have to find alternative accommodation for all the detritus vital to church life.

No, dear boy, cherish your centrally heated, dry, draft proof, mice-free, bat-less, modern-plumbed accommodation. It will not be ever thus.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Friends 
of St Luke's, Tiptree



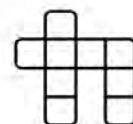
Games Afternoon

4th Friday, Every Month, 2-4pm

£3 per person

Includes Biscuits, Coffee, Tea,
& Good Company!

Rummikub, Cribbage, Scrabble, Mahjong, Cluedo...
and many more Games available



All in the month of June

It was

80 years ago, on 1st June 1946 that television licences were issued for the first time.

They cost £2.

30 years ago, on 4th June 1996 that the Second Severn Crossing was officially opened. The bridge spans the River Severn and links England and Wales via the M4 motorway.

250 years ago, on 11th June, that John Constable, British landscape artist, was born.

40 years ago, on 22nd June 1986 that the 'Hand of God' goal took place during the quarter-final of the 1986 FIFA World Cup in Mexico City. Argentine football player Diego Maradona scored a goal against England using his hand, which the referee mistakenly thought was his head, and allowed the goal. England was knocked out of the World Cup as a result, and Argentina won it.

50 years ago, from 23rd June to 27th August, the 1976 British Isles Heat Wave took place.

One of the hottest and driest summers on record, it dried up rivers and evaporated reservoirs. Domestic water supplies were rationed, and public standpipes were installed in some areas. September and October both saw very heavy rainfall.

150 years ago, on 25th June 1876 that General George Custer attacked Sioux Indians near Little Bighorn River in Montana and suffered a humiliating defeat.

All in the month of July

It was

30 years ago, on 3rd July 1996 that it was confirmed that the Stone of Scone, the symbol of the Scottish Nation taken by Edward I in 1296 would be returned to Scotland.

250 years ago, on 4th July 1776 that Congress accepted the Declaration of Independence formally ending American links with Britain.

35 years ago, on July 10th 1991 that Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office, becoming the first popularly elected president in Russia's thousand-year history.

420 years ago, on 15th July 1606 that the painter Rembrandt van Rijn was born.

170 years ago, on July 26th 1856 that George Bernard Shaw was born.

60 years ago, on 30th July 1966 that England won the Jules Rimet World Cup at Wembley Stadium.

Wordsearch

Mary - the virgin mother of Jesus. Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary makes few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and she loses her Son on the way home; when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is dying on the cross. Mary's last appearance is in Acts, just before Pentecost.

Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in history. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. "All generations shall call me blessed..."



Mary
Virgin
Mother
Elizabeth
Pregnant

Ordinary
World
History
Great
Event

Family
Jerusalem
Wedding
Cana
Wine

Beloved
Disciples
Dying
Cross
Keeping

Unique
Place
Centuries
Church
blessed



**Prom in the Barn! On the 4th July
Park House Farm, Layer Marney at 7pm
Tickets £15**

Rehearsals are now underway for our next concert. We will be joined by the Essex Concert Band, with items from both the band and Tiptree Choral Society.

Ticket can be purchased soon from choral members or "Ticket source" (although we have not gone live at the time of writing)

Why not bring a picnic to enjoy on a summer's evening while listening to the music!
We hope you will be able to join us!

The Great Exhibition that started the V & A

by Tim Lenton

Some 175 years ago, from 1st May to 15th October 1851, the Great Exhibition was held in The Crystal Palace, Hyde Park. More than 10,000 exhibitors attended what is regarded as the first World's Fair.

Prince Albert was an enthusiastic promoter of the exhibition, which was described by some as a reaction to the successful French Industrial Exposition of 1844: he described it as a display of divine providence, though some religious writers took the opposite view, describing it as worldly and even ungodly with its emphasis on human achievement. Others welcomed it as an opportunity to evangelise.

Queen Victoria was an Exhibition enthusiast, visiting three times with her family and 34 times on her own. In fact, six million people – equivalent to a third of the population of Britain at the time – paid it a visit. The average daily attendance was 42,831, with a peak of 109,915 on 7th October. The Baptist preacher Thomas Cook, in a landmark achievement for his embryonic company, arranged travel there for more than 150,000.

The event made a surplus of £186,000 – worth about £30 million today. This was used to found the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum.

The original Crystal Palace, constructed of cast iron and plate glass, was built specifically to house the Exhibition – consisting mainly of examples of technology developed in the Industrial Revolution. Designed by Joseph Paxton, it was three times the size of St Paul's Cathedral and boasted the greatest area of glass ever seen in a building.

After the Exhibition, the Palace was rebuilt near the affluent South London suburb of Sydenham Hill and stood there until it was burnt down in November 1936. The nearby residential area was renamed Crystal Palace.

Parish Pump

Join your Singing for the Brain group

We're a local singing group for people with dementia. Come and join us to sing and have fun in a relaxed environment.



**Our group meets every 2nd & 4th Monday
of the month
at St Luke's Church Hall.**

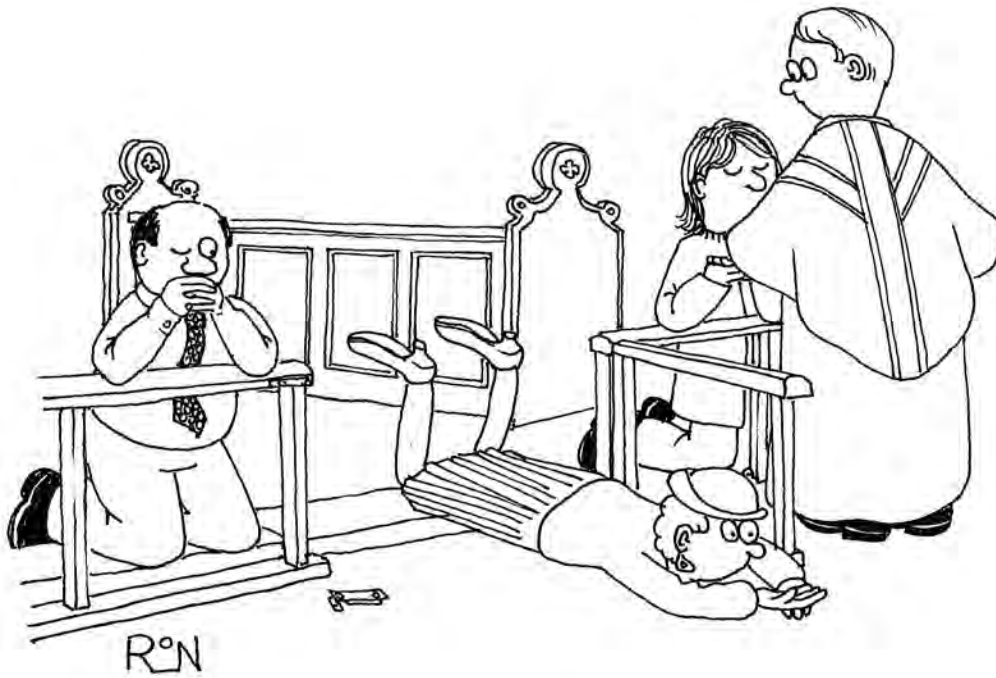
2pm – 3pm (refreshments available)

If you want to find out more about
our group please speak to:

Jayne Hens
07493 722427

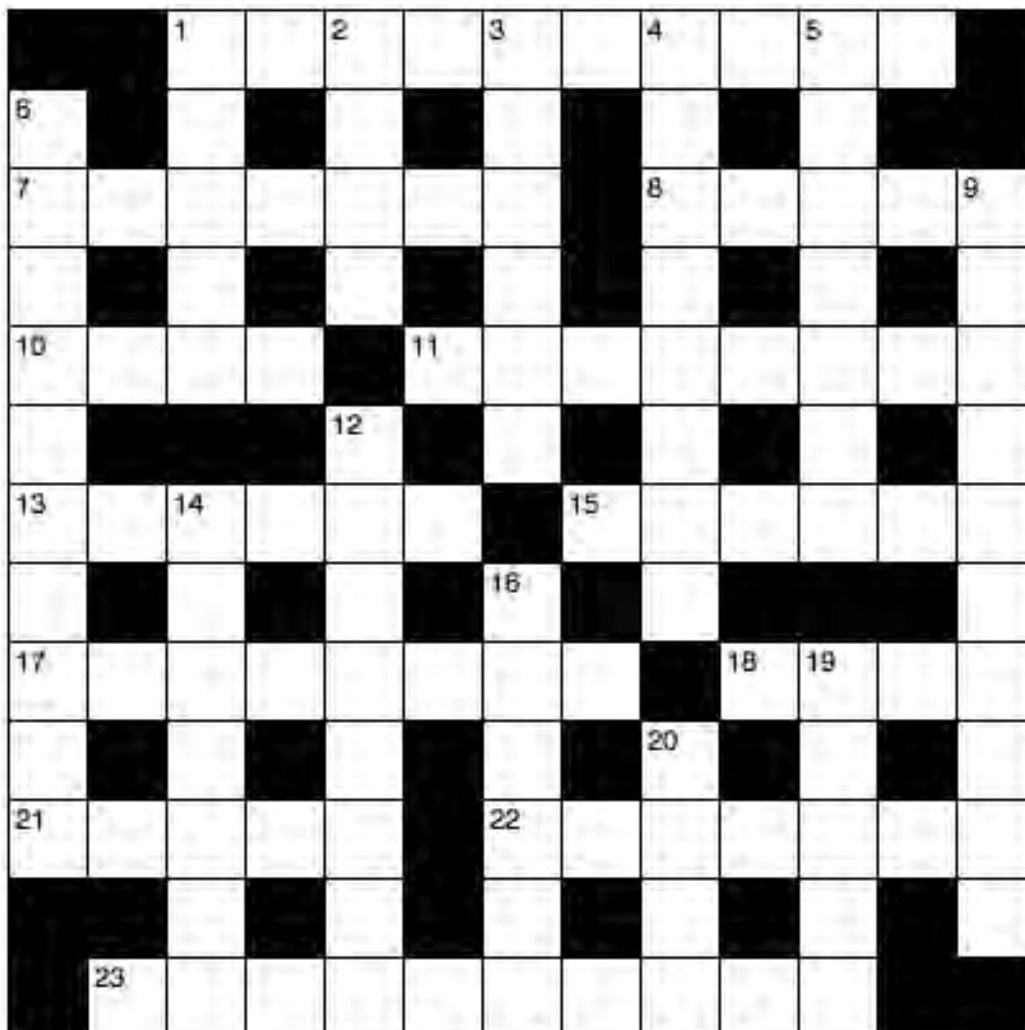
Tiptreecommunityhub@gmail.com





Terry made a note to fix the bolt

Crossword



Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—' (2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force;they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts,brothers,I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)
- 21 'As for man,his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.)(7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)

Down

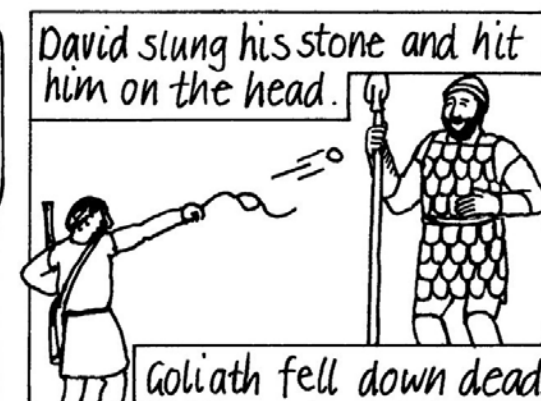
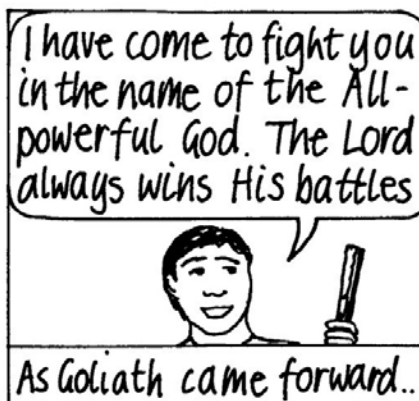
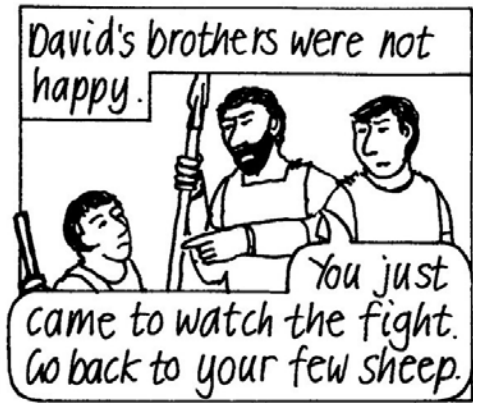
- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
- 12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)
- 14 Aceturn(anag.)(7)
- 16 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!'(Revelation19:7)(4)

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..





Tiptree Community Hub Invitation

**Are you feeling a little isolated?
Would you enjoy some friendly company?**

Join us every Friday

🕒 11:30am – 1:00pm

Come along for:

Freshly made toasted sandwiches

A warm cuppa ☕

Friendly conversation

A safe and welcoming space



**📍 At Tiptree Community Hub
Unit 4, 20 Station Road Tiptree
CO5 0AD**

**A place to relax, chat, and feel
part of your community ❤️**

Everyone is welcome

For More information call:

07493722427

The tale of the Salt and Light

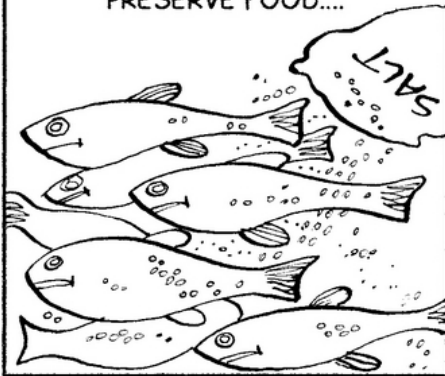


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



HE ONE EXPLAINED TO HIS
FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE A
BIT LIKE **SALT!**

IN JESUS' DAY, SALT WAS
VERY PRECIOUS. IT HELPED
PRESERVE FOOD....

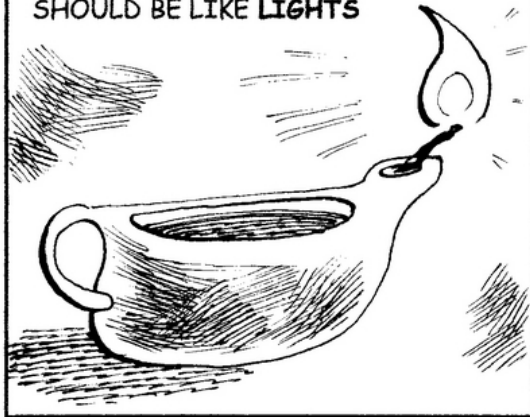


....AND SALT GAVE FLAVOUR.
IT WAS VERY USEFUL INDEED



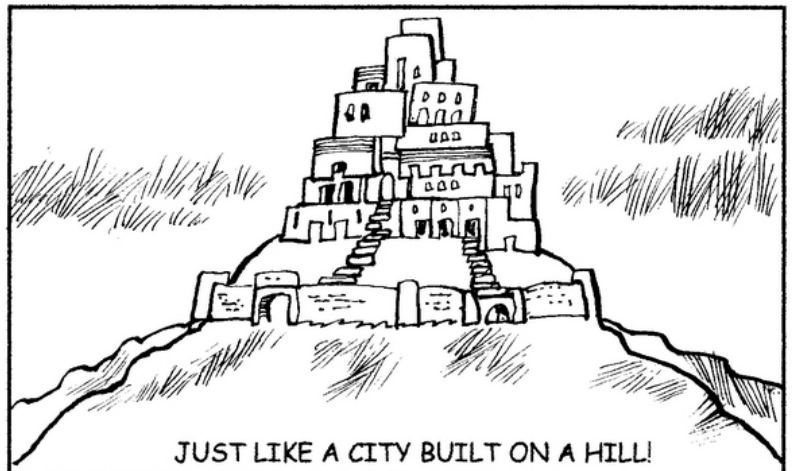
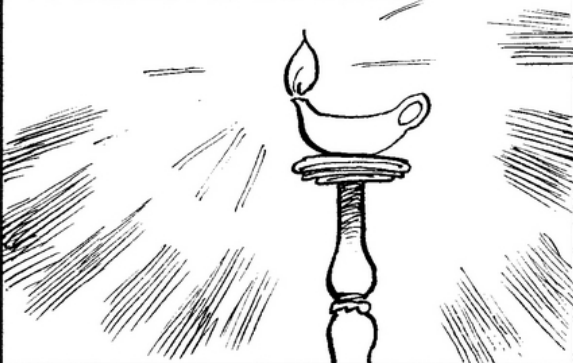
SALT HELPED MAKE LIFE
BETTER - WE TOO SHOULD HELP
MAKE LIFE BETTER IF WE
CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS!

JESUS ALSO SAID HIS FOLLOWERS
SHOULD BE LIKE **LIGHTS**



'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS
IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS

THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AS
CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE
TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.



JUST LIKE A CITY BUILT ON A HILL!

St Luke's Ladies Group

- 19 February** Andrew Wiltshire - Talk to be confirmed
19 March Three Women of Special Operations Executive WWII - Kate Cole
15 April Mandy & Baloo the Police Dog (retired)
21 May Apron to Mortarboard - Sharon Gould
18 June AGM & Roy and Amanda Dancing Demonstration
16 July Fraud Protection - Tammy Blest (Essex Police)

Various local charities are supported every year.

Look out for details about outings on the noticeboards.

MEETING IN THE CHURCH EXTENSION
3rd THURSDAY IN THE MONTH
at 7.30pm
ADMISSION £5.00
INCLUDES RAFFLE
& REFRESHMENTS



Keeping the county warm



Fuel Services

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Tiptree Guild of Beer and Wine Makers

Tiptree Tipplers



Meeting every 3rd Wednesday
St Luke's Hall, at 7.30pm for 8.00pm

- A fun night out in a friendly atmosphere
- Themed nights – see list
- Why not come along & give us a try - no commitment
- New members always welcomed
- Yearly membership only £35 with no entrance fee

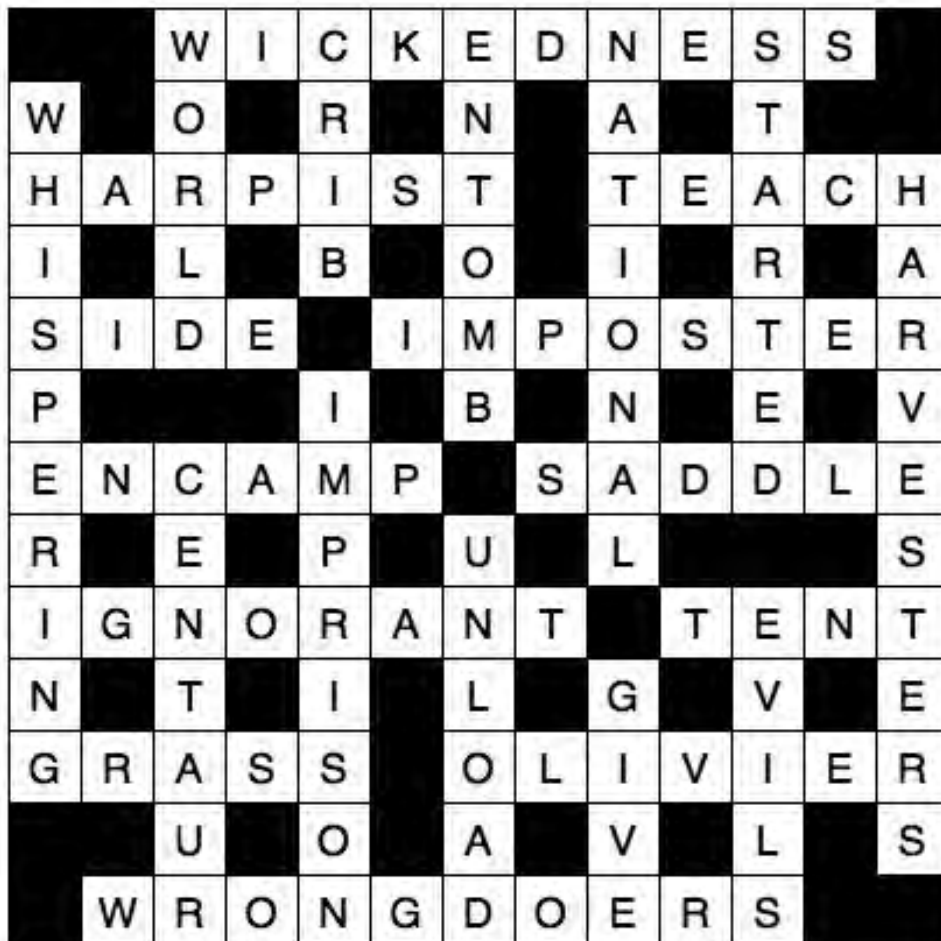
Upon arrival ask for Bill, Sonia or Neil who will welcome you
and introduce you to our club and members.

Our events for 2026 are –

- Jan 17 – Wine Roulette
- Feb 18 – Valentine's quizzes
- Mar 18 – Bread & Jam competitions + quiz
- Apr 15 – First Aid
- May 20 – Financial talk and Fish n Chips
- June 17 – Wine Competition + quiz
- July 21 – Trip to Mersea vineyard
- August 19 – Vic's Cup
- Sept 16 – Beer & Chutney Comp
- Oct 21 – AGM + Hot Dogs
- Nov 18 – Mexican theme night
- Dec 16 – Christmas party



Solutions:



*On RSCM Music Sunday
Come and sing*

Choral Evensong

***St. Luke's Church, Tiptree
June 14th 2026 at 6pm***

***Choir workshop from 3pm to 5pm
Conductor: Norman Eastbrook MBE
Organist: Clive Eastbrook***

Music provided (from RSCM)

*Refreshment break at 5pm
- tea and coffee will be provided*

*To book your place, or for further
details, please contact*

*Norman Eastbrook on 07762 836395
or by email: nreastbrook@me.com*

... or come and be part of the congregation at 6pm.

St. Luke's Church, Church Road, Tiptree CO5 0SU

The opinions expressed in Open Door are not necessarily those of the Ministry Team, Team Council or Parochial Church Councils of the Thurstable and Winstree Team Ministry. Open Door is not responsible for errors or omissions, accuracy of the content, nor the failure of any published event to go ahead.