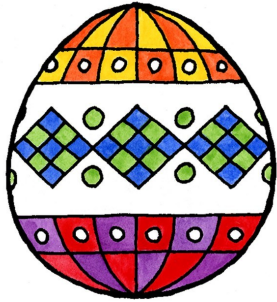




April
2025

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



STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY

Rector: Reverend Elveen Mead [Usual Day off Friday]

Curate: Reverend Charlotte Stansfield [Usual Day off Friday]

Lay Minister: Lisa Lodwick
Alison Burston
Dan Read

Church Administrator Georgina Martin 826505
Email: stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

St. Margaret's Church and St Mary Magdalene Church

Mrs June Lewis 822954
Mr Ian Jones 07769703385
Mrs Diane Whitford 824339

Deputy Wardens

Mr David Horne 07717447855
Mr Richard Pflieger 828367

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

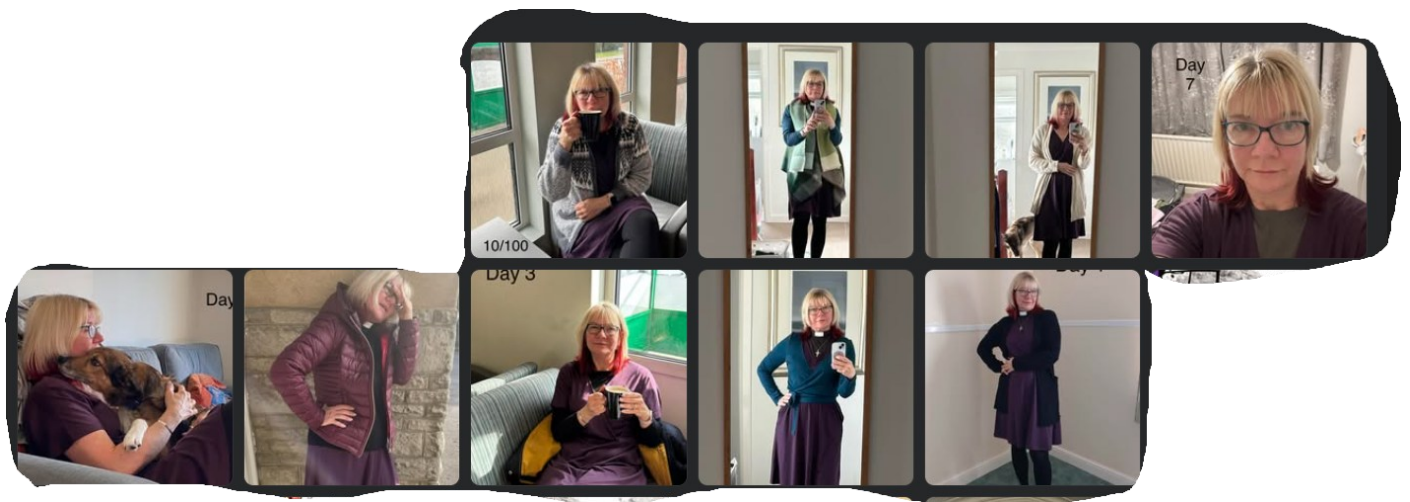
Mrs Rosalind Mitchell (Secretary) 764146
Mrs Diane Whitford
(Deputy Secretary of St Mary Magdalene) 824339

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

I thought I would take the opportunity this month to give you an update on how my Lent disciplines are going with some reflections.

As many of you will know I am wearing the same dress for 100 days, obviously this challenge extends past Lent but I thought I would use Ash Wednesday as a springboard. The ethos behind the brand is to be ethically sustainable and fair trade. The purpose of the 100 day challenge is to reduce the spotlight effect (you can look this up). The idea being that most people don't notice or care what you wear unless they've specifically mentioned a dress code on an invitation. Additionally, the same dress reduces decision fatigue each morning. The material being wool doesn't retain odours so reducing the need to frequently wash it. I must stress at this point I do wash it, every 10 days or so and spot wash when necessary. All of this felt appropriate and in line with Lent and our church's eco vision.

So how am I doing? Well the dress is holding up nicely, it can be washed and dried overnight and I quite like it even though I am used to wearing trousers/ jeans more often than dresses. It's comfortable and versatile though, I am what they call 'team basic' in that I'm not that inventive when it comes to styling. A cardigan or jumper over the top or cotton top underneath is about as creative I've been so far. There's been quite a lot of interest generated by me posting about this challenge daily on Facebook and if you do follow either our Stratton Team Group or me personally please do give it a 'like' it's encouraging to me and helps our team algorithms on Facebook. I have tried to make some of the photos a little interesting rather than just me posing in front of my door so I hope you're not too bored of me. My intention is to create a sponsor page where if you would like to you can donate and this money will go to an eco charity (yet to be decided hence page not yet set up).

Along with the daily picture I have also written one thing I am grateful for, this is to frame my thoughts on the positives and will hopefully encourage you too, to find just one thing each day that gives you a sense of gratitude.

What hasn't yet gone quite so well is the decluttering side of things. I was hoping to pick one area in the house or storage space to go through and either sell, give away or donate anything I no longer need or use. I would like to say that time has been the only reason as to why I have not yet done anything however energy and enthusiasm have also been lacking. But there are now two motivators coming up for me, one is my slimming world group collecting for Cancer Research items they can re-sell in their shops and at church, we are doing our Rags to Riches collecting which will take anything on 14th October which may feel like a long way off but worth bearing in mind. This decluttering is meant to be only for Lent but I hope I might get into a habit of regularly clearing out what I no longer need or use, some people hold the principle of one in, one out but I'm not sure I'm quite ready for that yet!

What is the purpose of what may seem an unorthodox Lent observation? Well Lent is all about creating space to let God in. Anything that creates that space in my opinion is worth trying. Traditional fasting from food and using meal times to instead of eating to pray are not always easy to observe although our Muslim communities seem to be able to fit Ramadan in so maybe we're just too soft?

Whatever you have decided to do for Lent I hope it is going well and that you are finding some quality and quantity time with God.

Blessings

Elveen





Times Change

Do you remember the Chemists? With large carafes of coloured liquids in the window?
Here I go reminiscing about the past. I wonder what the red or blue contents were?

Again do you remember the G.W.R Medical Fund Surgery on Milton Road? I have a vivid memory of it after a visit to one of the dozen or so doctors. I was standing peering through a pigeonhole marked Male or Female with my mum, watching the white coated chemists mixing medicines or ointments. Some of the bottles were rigid backed to denote "Poisons"?

Then how about "Co-op Bronchial Mixture" that was like firewater?

Another memory is of being in the GWR Hospital at eight years old having the "Doctor's Pastry" put on a fractured wrist.

Who remembers the high counters in the 3d and 6d old Woolworths Store? There were open square tins of biscuits from which to help yourself and a similar tin next to them of broken biscuits which were at a reduced price.

Then the long, snaking Cinema queues and the call "Standing 2s and 9d?"

Times change, but some things never change especially the Lord's promise
"Seek and ye shall find, ask and it shall be given" x

Colin Howell

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bristol

"Join us, Join in!"

Mothers' Union Swindon Deanery Branch

**Our next meeting will be on Friday April 11th
And it will be in St Margaret's Centre at 2.30pm.**

We will be making Easter Craft,

Do come and join us.

For more info, visit the Bristol MU website

www.mubristol.co.uk



- raising awareness of modern slavery

Anne Pope - MU Swindon Deanery Branch Contact



Stopping Violence
Stopping Poverty
Stopping Injustice

www.mothersunion.org

Weekly Prayers for April – Love blooms

Monday: - *God's Goodness*

'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.' **Genesis 1.31**

'In short, everything owes its existence to the love of God' *Julian of Norwich*

God our Creator, who laid the foundations of the earth and stretched out the heavens as a tent cloth; how glorious is your name in all the world.

Give us grace to wonder at your gift, to treasure the earth and to work for its protection and renewal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

'A Time for Creation'

What one thing can you pray for that will make a difference to God's creation where you live?

Tuesday: *Growing in faith*

'I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.'

Galatians 2. 20

'Our good God, opens the eye of our understanding so that we might see, sometimes more, sometimes less, according to the ability God gives us to receive it.'

Julian of Norwich

Almighty God, may I seek you in good times and difficult and learn to trust you more everyday.

May you increase, and I decrease as I learn to become more like you. In Jesus holy and powerful name. Amen

What one thing can you pray for that will make a difference your faith in God?

Wednesday: Growing Together, Growing Stronger

'Come follow me, Jesus said.' **Matthew 4.19**

Mary Sumner's husband said, 'Just share your heart – God will do the rest'.

Almighty God, we boldly pray to grow membership of the Church.

Faithful and loving God, we strive for the renewal of family life: give us the gift of your Holy Spirit, that through word, prayer and deed your family may be strengthened and your people served; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

What one person could you pray for that you would like to see join the Church?

Thursday: Growing in Holiness

'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.'

Exodus 3. 5

Take a deep breath, in and out. Ground your feet on the floor, for it is holy ground, and you are holy.

We pray, most holy God the ground of our beseeching, who through
you servant Julian revealed the wonders of your
love: grant that as we are created in your nature
and restored by your grace, our wills may
be made with yours that we may come to see
you face to face and gaze on you forever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

What one person could you pray for today that could be brought closer to God?

Friday: *Growing in God's love*

'Love never fails.' **1 Corinthians 13.8**

Julian of Norwich reassures each one of us that we are loved by God, unconditionally. In her writings, we hear Christ telling us, just as he told her: "I love you and you love me, and our love shall never be separated in two."

Almighty God, we thank you that you are a loving, gracious God. Thank you that you've offered us forgiveness and the gift of new life in you. Thank you that your love is perfect, it never fails, and that nothing can separate us from your love. We pray that our lives would be filled and overflowing with the power of your love so we can make a difference in this world. Amen

What one person could you pray for today that needs to feel God's love at this time?

Saturday: *Growing in God's Grace*

'Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.' **2**

Peter 3.18

God's grace make possible a godly life, that we are to grow in that grace. Grace is applied freely to us through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Growth is possible even when life is faced with hardships.

Almighty God, who showed Julian of Norwich that, 'It was necessary that there should be sin; but in that, all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' Help us to grow in grace and love throughout all our life.

Amen.

What one person could you pray for today that needs to know, 'all shall be well?'

Blessing Prayer

Lord, may your warmth and light nurture our relationships.

May each encounter be filled with beauty and growth.

May our interactions with the world around us be fruitful.

And may Christ be our encouragement, our strength and our joy.

Amen.

A P R I L

6th April	Fifth Sunday of Lent	
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 April	Palm Sunday	
St Margaret's Church	St Leonard's Church	
9:30am	11am	
Sunday Morning Worship	Family Service	
20th April	Easter Sunday	
St Mary Magdalene Church	St Margaret's Church	St Leonard's Church
8am	9:30am	11:30am
Holy Communion Service	Holy Communion Service	Holy Communion Service
27th April	Second Sunday of Easter	
St Margaret's Church	St Leonard's Church	Coleview Community Centre
9:30am	9:30am	11am
Sunday Morning Worship	Holy Communion Service	Sunday Morning Worship

Please see our website for the most up to date information www.strattonteamministry.co.uk
 We will endeavor to give as much notice as possible to any changes but that may not always be possible.

EASTER



Palm Sunday April 13th

9:30am St Margaret's Church

Sunday Morning Worship

11am St Leonards Church

Family Service



Maundy Thursday April 17th

7pm St Margaret's Church

Holy Communion Service



Good Friday April 18th

10am St Margaret's Church

Good Friday Service

2pm St Leonard's Church

Hour at the Cross



Easter Sunday April 20th

8am St Mary Magdalene Church

Holy Communion Service

9:30am St Margaret's Church

Holy Communion Service

11:30am St Leonards Church

Holy Communion Service



**St Mary
Magdalene
Church
South Marston**

**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 13th April**

Palm Sunday



**All welcome for a lively
Family Service designed to
involve children and appeal
to adults.**

St Margaret's Church Stratton



at

St Margaret's Centre
Every Thursday

9:30am - 11:30am

Sundays after Church Services

Tea also available





St Leonard's Church Stanton

Hosts Coffee Morning now at
Stanton House Hotel

10:15am - noon

On Wednesday

23rd of April 2025

Everyone Welcome



Liz & Roger Hillman are our
speakers

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
Saturday 19th April

Enquiries or for table reservations please call

01793 824339

Bumps & Babes

ARE YOU A NEW
OR EXPECTANT PARENT?

Register Now

forms.gle/fM4NesmSPYWTNuiC7

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



Bumpsandbabes9@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

jokes

A few words of wisdom:



A thing not worth doing isn't worth doing well.



Always keep your words soft and sweet - just in case you have to eat them.



Don't become superstitious-it's bad luck.



Don't hate yourself in the morning-sleep till noon.



Drive carefully- it's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.



Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time.



If a thing's worth doing it would have been cloned already.



If you can tell the difference between good advice and bad advice-you don't really need advice.



'To do is to be'. Descartes, 'To be is to do' Voltaire 'Do be do be do'

Frank Sinatra.

The great thing about teamwork is that you never have to take all the blame yourself.

A man is having breakfast at a greasy spoon cafe when three bikers come in looking for trouble. The first biker spits in the man's food. The second pours coffee over the man's head and the third pulls away his chair so he falls over. Without a word the man gets up and walks out. "Not much of a man," says one of the bikers to the waitress, "Nope" replies the waitress, "and he's not much of a driver either, he just drove his lorry over three bikes."

Television: I must say I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on I go to the library and read a book.

Groucho Marx

A woman comes home from a psychic fair with a crystal ball she's just bought. "How much was that?" asks her husband. "Thirty pounds" answers the woman. "Thirty!" says the husband. "They must have seen you coming."

How would you rate that spiritualist you saw last week? Medium






A woman calls in a plumber when her washing machine breaks down. The plumber arrives, studies the machine then produces a hammer and gives it a hefty whack. The washing machine starts working again and the plumber presents a bill for £200. "Two hundred pounds?" says the woman. "All you did was hit it with a hammer." So the plumber gives her an itemized bill.

- Hitting washing machine with a hammer - £5
- Knowing where to hit it - £195.



A man goes into a shop to get his wife a present. He points out a bottle of perfume and asks "how much?" "That's £50 sir," says the assistant. "Oh no, that's too much," says the man. "What about that smaller bottle?" "That's £30 sir," says the assistant. "No," says the man, "That's still too much, what about that really tiny bottle?" "That's £15," says the assistant. "No," says the man, "Still too much I'd like to see something cheap." So the assistant hands him a mirror.

T Shirt Slogans:

-  Change is inevitable except from a vending machine:
-  Constant change is here to stay:
-  Corduroy pillows they're making headlines
-  Honk if you love peace and quiet:
-  I didn't use to finish sentences but now I



*Mary wished she'd never mentioned
Fresh Expressions of Church*



GIVING

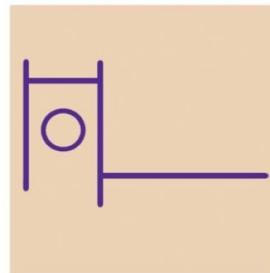
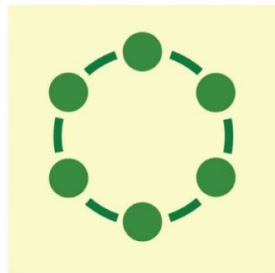
You may be aware that many charities and organisations are struggling at this time, this includes churches.

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



TM

PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME



Recycling @ St Margaret's Centre



RECYCLE FOR



**RECYCLE YOUR
CRISP PACKETS HERE!**



**WILTSHIRE
AIR AMBULANCE**

In support of

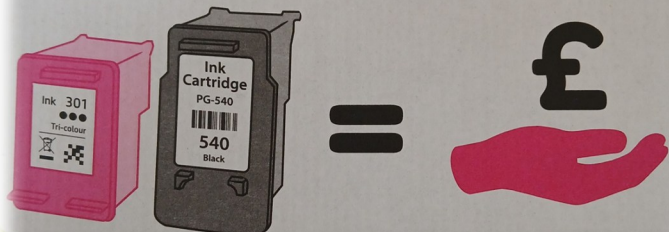
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CANCER SUPPORT**

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Any brand

**Donate your
Ink Cartridges
for reuse today!**



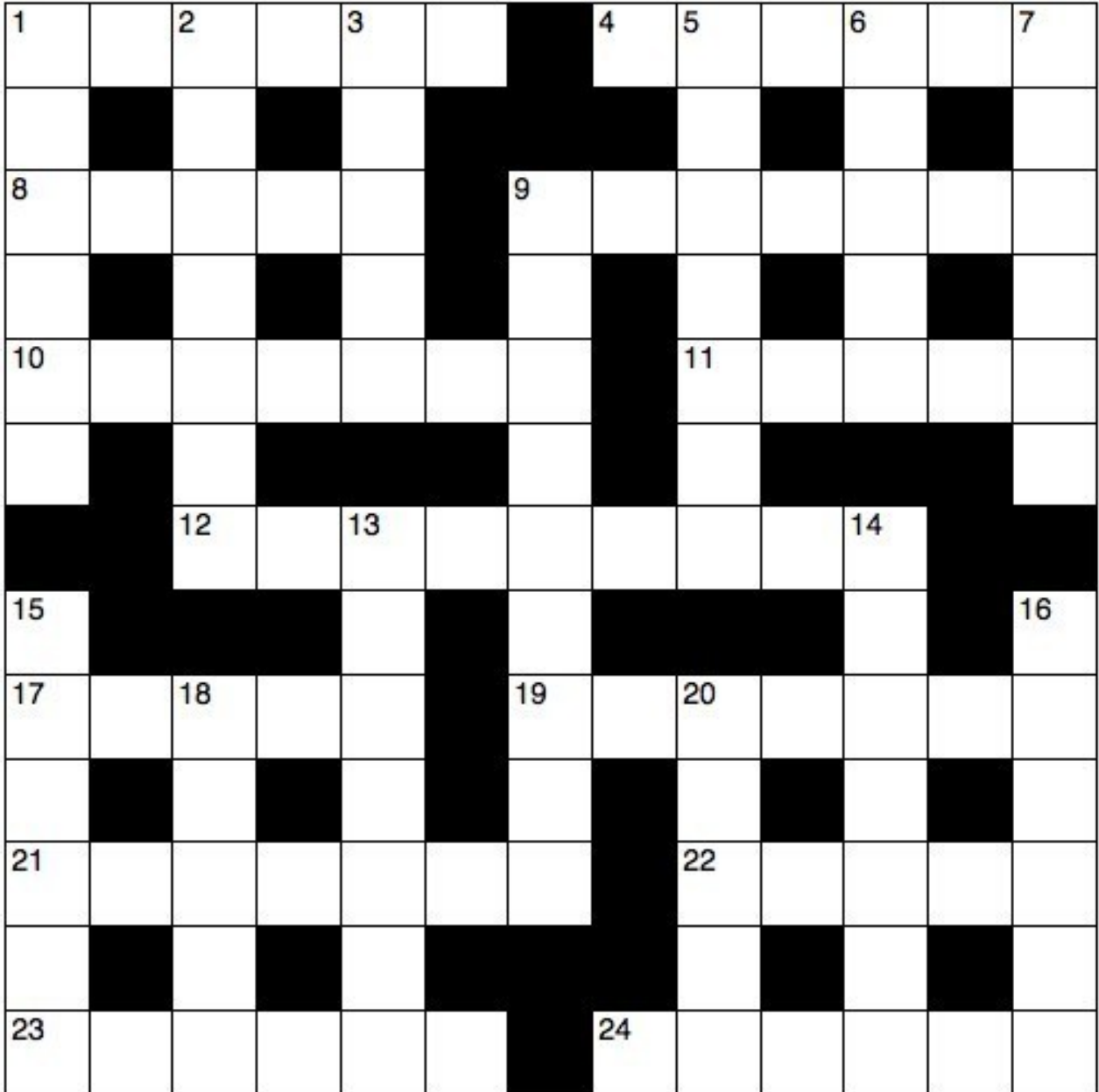
**CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
LIVING
MISERABLY**

**UNITED
AGAINST
SUICIDE**

☎ 0800 58 58 58 💬 THECALMZONE.NET

5pm-midnight | Free | Confidential | Anonymous

CROSS
WORD



Across

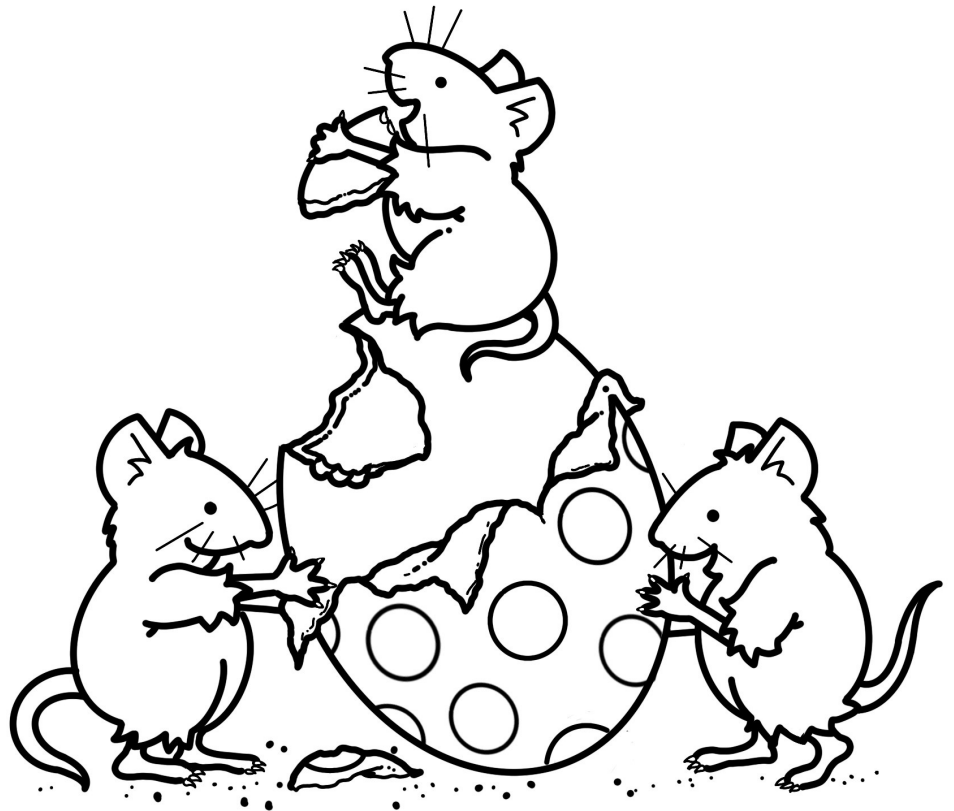
- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)

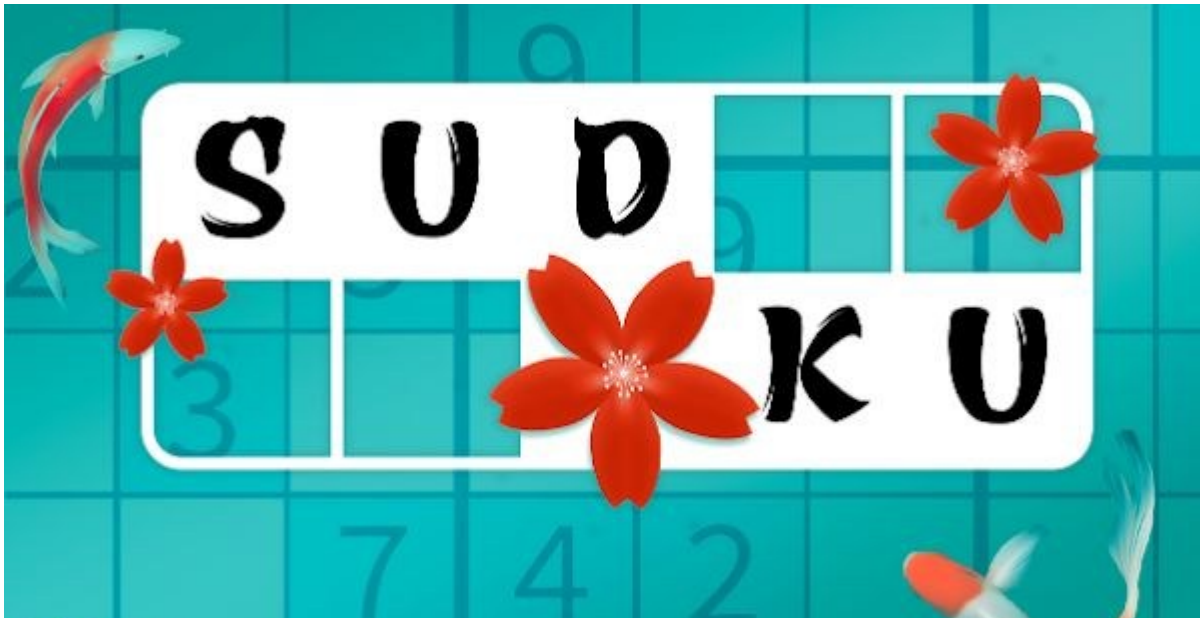
Across

- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome
(Acts 27:3–4) (5)
19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the
Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew
25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
7 He reps (anag.) (6)
9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
15 The human mind or soul (6)
16 'O Lord, while
precious children
starve, the tools of
war increase; their
bread is —
' (Graham Kendrick)
(6)
18 'We played the flute
for you, and you did not —
' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
20 Bared (anag.) (5)





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

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"

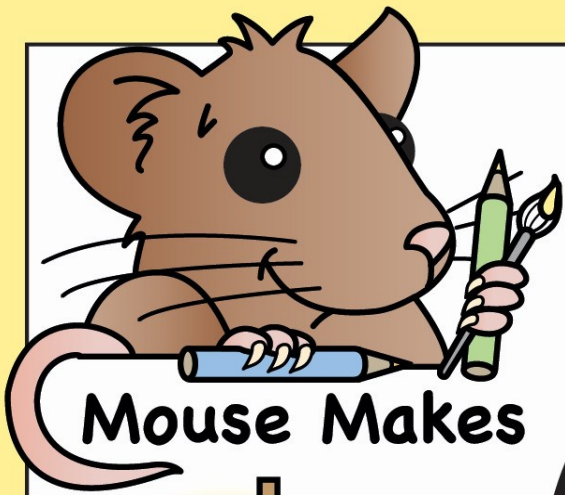
WHAT WE DON'T NEED:

We do not need pasta, cereals and shower gel.

We hope you will be able to support us once again

THANK YOU.

On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
 Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
 and showed us the resurrection to
 come by His raising to new life!



Mouse Makes

Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
 "Jesus ...is not here, for He
 has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6



Jesus is here

Jesus said:
 "Where two or three
 come together
 in my name I am
 there with them."
Matthew 18:20



READ the story of
 the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and 21:1-14

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



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:
 "I will come back
 and take you to
 myself so that you
 will be where I am."
John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
 LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
 RESURRECTION
 PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
 CHRIST • SON OF GOD
 HOSANNA • PRAISE
 GO TELL • EASTER



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

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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, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE

for Articles and Information anytime before 25th April 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 Daghish	07796 925621
Brownies - Mon	Yvette Webster-May	825398
Bumps and Babes	Bekki	bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com
Cadley Dance	Maria Howse	824446
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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92 Ermin Street
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01793 422 422

Papermakers House
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Westlea, West Swindon, SN5 7BD

info@pearcefuneralservices.co.uk



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