

TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2025 - Issue 154

Welcome to Edition Number 154

Contact e-mail address is newsletter@torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk or
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Any comments or items you wish to share, please contact the editor, Dave Watson by e-mail; phone 01237 451437 or to 6 Greenings Road, Buckland Brewer, Bideford, EX39 5LU.

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As well as the Circuit Facebook page – **Torrige Methodist Circuit**, we have a private Facebook Group where we care share thoughts, prayers & other material on **Torrige Methodist Circuit Group**. If you wish to join please push the Join button & I can add you.

Please pray for our Ministers, Rob Blackhall & Andrew Vidamour, for Frank Watson & Sarah Richards and all involved in the varied life of the Circuit; for those connected to the various Chapels & the communities in which they live & work.

CIRCUIT ZOOM SERVICES

The Circuit Services continue to take place ON VARIOUS Sunday's on Zoom using the Services that are often printed in the Circuit Newsletter. The Services are on Sunday Evenings starting at 6.30pm – but the 'doors will be open' at about 6.15pm. The contact/entry details will be send out during the preceding week & the Service can be accessed via a computer/laptop with camera/microphone, I Pad/Phone or using a 'normal' phone. Even if you have a device with camera/microphone & do not wish to be seen – you can join in without the camera on.

If you do not receive an email or want further information – please contact Sarah Richards, Circuit Administrator on 01237 472649 or sarahrichards185@gmail.com

The **March Zoom Service** is on Sunday 9th March at 6.30pm led by Revd Andrew Vidamour

TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT - ZOOM SERVICE: 9th MARCH 2025 (6.30pm)

Call to Worship

Hymn: 'All my hope on God is founded' (455 STF)

Prayers of Adoration and Confession
The Lord's Prayer
Psalm: 91: 1-2 and 9-16
Hymn: 'Forty days and forty nights' (236 STF)
Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
Bible Reading: Luke 4: 1-13
Hymn: 'Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us' (238 STF)
Sermon
Silence
Hymn: 'Father, hear the prayer we offer' (518 STF)
Prayers of Intercession
Hymn: 'Will you anchor hold' (645 STF)
The Blessing

FROM REV ROB BLACKHALL – SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER

Dear Friends

One of the purposes of Lent over the years has been to examine ourselves in the light of God and of Jesus Christ and his march towards the cross.

This period of Penitence is characterized by Ash Wednesday.

The Psalm set for that day, puts it better than we can.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

(Psalm 51:1-2)

We talk of repentance, the Greek word, metanoia, which involves a turning; away from our ways and towards God.

I have in my ministry, and indeed in my life, made many mistakes. I have got some things badly wrong. Edith Piaf is famous for singing, "Non, je ne regrette rien", No, I regret nothing.

I cannot say that. There are things that I have done that I shouldn't. There are also things that I should have done, but neglected to do. One of the lines in the ordination service that still haunts me is, "Let no one suffer hurt through your neglect". That is a tough one.

I have, although I hope not willfully, hurt people; and sometimes those who are, or were, very close to me.

Of course, I have regrets. Of course, there are occasions in which I should have acted differently, or said something kinder. Sometimes I wish I had taken a different path; and encouraged and lead others too in a different direction.

If I had my time again, would have done somethings differently? Yes, too right, I would.

But would I alter the scope of my ministry these last decades? No. As I said last month, I am thankful for the road travelled – in so many ways a privilege and a blessing. But....

Alexander Pope is oft quoted, "To err is human; to forgive, divine."

I am sorry, for those things I have done and left undone, which could, and perhaps should have gone in a different direction.

But God is Christ, does forgive. God in Christ, offers salvation, wholeness and hope. God's wish for us in Christ is wholeness and fullness of life.

So, during this Lent, I will, once more, examine myself in the light of Christ, and of his journey towards the cross. There I will see his self-giving love exposed for all to see; and lay all that I am and all that I have, including my foibles over the years, at the root of the cross. And from the foot of the cross, new hope, new community and new love are given.

Thanks be to God
Blessings for Lent and beyond - Rob

LENT 2025

Sunshine and Showers: Prayer's beautiful messiness

Tuesdays 2pm	Thursdays 7pm	
Northam	Zoom	
March 5 (Wed)	March 6	Prayer as friendship: is prayer boring, or life-giving?
March 11	March 13	Praying as rhythm: do we pray sometimes, or all the time?
March 18	March 20	Forms of prayer: are your prayers eloquent, or silent?
March 25	March 27	When prayer is hard: does God feel absent, or present?
April 1	April 2	Prayers for healing: do you get answers, or no answers?
April 8	April 9	Answering prayers ourselves: does God act, or do we act to answer prayers?



Booklets are available at the course. If you would like one before hand then please let Sarah know

Resources and videos:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/sunshine-and-showers/sunshine-and-showers-prayer/>

SOUL FOOD - Methodist Church Lent and Easter material 2005

This year's Lent and Easter resources are now on the Methodist Website.

In the wilderness, Jesus reminded us that people don't live by bread alone. Each week during Lent, we'll reflect on what sustains us, based on the lectionary Gospel passage for Sunday.

Date	Week/Day	Theme	Old Testament	New Testament
9/3/25	Lent 1	Soul food: All the things that nourish us	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16	Luke 4:1-13
16/3/25	Lent 2	Soul shelter: Nourished by a safe home (for everyone)	Psalms 27	Luke 13:31-35
23/3/25	Lent 3	Soul rest: Nourished by patience and slowness	Psalms 63:1-8	Luke 13:1-9
30/3/25	Lent 4	Soul repair: Nourished by unconditional love and forgiveness (Mothering Sunday)	Psalms 32	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
6/4/25	Lent 5	Soul mates: Nourished by companionship	Psalms 126	John 12:1-8
13/4/25	Palm Sunday	Soul songs: Nourished by music from the heart	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29	Luke 19:28-40
18/4/25	Good Friday	Soul support: Nourished by each other when times are tough	Psalms 22	John 19:13-42
20/4/25	Easter Day	Soul stories: So well nourished that we have to share it	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	Luke 24:1-12

There are daily reflections which can be emailed to you.

Please sign up at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/>

For Preachers and leaders of worship there is a Worship Pack.

[8314_Soul_Food_2025_Lent_Worship_Resource_New_Design_revised.pdf](#)

I commend the material to you.

Rob Blackhall

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

During our discussion on Marriage and Relationships those of us who meet to wrestle with some difficult material were aware that there are things that we as Christians disagree. We came to the conclusion that while that might be so, and while that we were one in Christ; that we should be thinking about some of the major issues of our day; and about our faith. Hence, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

These will take place one a month from 10-12 in various locations. It will be an opportunity to discuss and meet together. What might the Bible teach us? How has the Christian Church looked at a particular question over the years? Where does our God given reason lead us? Have we any experience that adds light in given area?

DISCUSSION MORNINGS - WHAT DO YOU THINK?

There are things we don't always agree on, but should think about, from 10-12am

Mon 10th March	Northam
Mon 7th April	Alverdiscott
Tues 13th May	Buckland Brewer
Wed 11th June	Torrington

FROM REVD ANDREW VIDAMOUR

Dear friends,

One of the few basic story shapes in world literature is that of the Quest, where the framework of a journey often takes a three-fold pattern: departure – adventure (or initiation) – return.

We see this very often in the Bible. Think, for example, of the journeys undertaken by the Jewish Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (and not forgetting Joseph in this). In the course of their travelling, they learn more about themselves, about other people, about God and about God's purposes for them and for the world.

Then there were the long and eventful wilderness wanderings of the Jews after their Exodus from Egypt on their way to the Promised Land; and, later, there were the journeys of the Jewish people to and from Exile in Babylon. We may also consider the travels of figures such as Jonah (an example of a journey as a testing ground), and later those of Jesus and Paul in their ministries.

In other literature, as well, we find such quests as that of Odysseus (in Homer's 'Odyssey'), and Christian in John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress'. Here, Christian journeys through, for instance, the Slough of Despond, Doubting Castle and Vanity Fair before reaching the Delectable Mountains and, finally, the Celestial City, often accompanied by friends such as Faithful and Hopeful. Again, we find the three-fold pattern of the Quest, and points of self-discovery and the revelation of God's truth. And so we may find it, too, in our Lenten walk, from Ash Wednesday (5th March) onwards, as we travel with Jesus on the Way of the Cross to Calvary.

And so some questions for Lent:

1. How do you feel as you start your Lenten journey?
2. What do you discover on the adventure of Lent – about yourself, other people, God and the life of Christian faith and discipleship?
3. What is your point of arrival like, as you move into Holy Week and on to Good Friday?

May God bless us with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in our journeyings of mind, body and spirit this Lent.

Andrew Vidamour

BURIED TREASURE

If you have any buried treasure in the form of archive documents (minute books, account books, property papers, correspondence, baptism registers etc), Dave Watson or I would be pleased to receive it as we make deposits of historic material at the North Devon Record Office from time to time, and other material can be retained locally.

In particular, we would be pleased to have any photographs of the interior of Bridge Street Methodist Church, Bideford (which can be copied and returned if necessary).

Thank you for your help in this – it is important to be good stewards of past records as part of our Christian calling.

With every blessing - Andrew Vidamour

EDI TRAINING

- If you wish to do the EDI course online, can you let Sarah Richards know.

To do the training online please take the following steps:-

1. Go to <https://mcb.theologyx.com/> If you have already used Theology X (probably for the Advanced safeguarding module) use the same username and password to sign into MCBX (the new Methodist online training platform).
2. If you do not have a Theology X account, just go straight to the MCBX and register there to create an account.
3. There you will find the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Module
4. You do not need to do it all at once but can do as little or as much as your time allows.
5. At the end you will be given a certificate (via email). Please could you let Sarah Richards have a copy of that so we can keep a record.

FROM FRANK WATSON – CIRCUIT LAY MINISTER

A reminder that **Mid Week Morning Prayer** takes place **every Wednesday morning** at **9.30am** at **Torrington Methodist Church**. At this short time of prayer (around 20 minutes) we use the liturgy of Prayer in the Morning from The Methodist Worship Book, supported by additional material, mainly, The Methodist Prayer Handbook. There is of course opportunity within our time together for you to bring your own prayers. Tea or Coffee is served afterwards which you are very welcome to stay for should you wish.




TORRINGTON METHODIST CHAPEL

Torrington Methodist Church welcome all to their **Coffee Mornings where delicious Bacon Butties are served and where cakes and bric-a-brac are sold**. The next Coffee Morning is on Saturday 15th March from 10am till 12noon.

Warm Welcome

Come and enjoy a **Warm Welcome** at Torrington Methodist Church. Saturday 15 March, noon to 2.00pm, straight after our coffee morning.

Free - entry, drink, food, activities

Have soup & sandwich, possibility of cake! 

Time to chat, or play board games, or enjoy a craft activity.

Under 18s need to be accompanied by an adult.

This is part of The Methodist Church initiative offering A Warm Welcome to everyone, nationwide.

BUCKLAND BREWER

We continue to Live Stream Services on the Buckland Brewer Methodist Church You-Tube Channel on the 3rd & 4th Sunday in the Month & the 5th Sunday if there is one.

The Weekly '**Time Together**' **Toddler Group** runs on Mondays, during Term Time at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church**. We meet from 9.30am to about 12noon, The cost is £1.50 per family– so if anyone is aware of any Babies & Toddlers, who with their parents, grandparents or carers are looking for a 'chilled out' session of play & chat with tea/coffee/biscuits – just point them in the direction of Buckland Chapel – Dave Watson 07484 223515 or bucklanddave1953@btinternet.com

The **Wednesday Weekly Coffee Morning** also continues at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church** from 10am-12noon – this is for **ALL** but especially for those who have moved into the parish/village since lockdown or anyone who would like to meet others in the community over a mug of tea/coffee with Biscuits & possibly Cake!!

The **Monthly 'Mini Market'**, raising funds for Community Groups in Buckland take place at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church**. – Tea/Coffee/Biscuits will be available for Chapel Funds. The next Market is on Saturday 8th March from 10am to 1pm.

The **Community Choir**, based in the Chapel has returned to practice on various Mondays at 7.30pm.

Sunday 16th March 2025 – **CONCERT AT BUCKLAND BREWER METHODIST CHURCH at 4pm by 'Our Atlantic Roots'** – They are a couple, Mac & Laura Johnston, who live in Cornwall, but come from both sides of the Atlantic. Their music reflects this fact. There will be refreshments during this concert and admission is by donation, on the door. We are asking for a suggested minimum donation of £10. Proceeds are for the work & upkeep of our Chapel. More details contact Dave Watson.

If any Chapel would like me to bring some historical bits to display during a Coffee Morning or such like with specific items to that Chapel, please contact Dave Watson, in plenty of time.

BIDEFORD NEWS

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING – This takes place from 10am-12noon on the last Saturday of the month. This is a Free event but donations are gratefully received for local charities. The next one is on Saturday 29th March.

JIGSAW PUZZLE AFTERNOON – This takes place on Wednesday 12th March from 2-4pm. We will be making jigsaws together, with a break for tea/coffee and biscuits.

EVENTS AT ALVERDISCOTT METHODIST CHAPEL

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning in February was for the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. We raised the sum of £120. Well done and thank you to all who attended.

The next meeting is on Thursday March 6, when we will be raising funds for the Chapel, so do please come along between 10am and noon, hope to see you there.

On April 3 the charity will be Children's Hospice South West.

Garden Club

The meeting in November was about rescuing hedgehogs and other wild animals, and was really interesting and enjoyable.

Everyone is welcome and the cost is just £1.00. For the latest information contact Philip Squire on 01237 473692.

LANGTREE METHODIST CHURCH

Our Bible Study continues weekly on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. We are continuing our study of Genesis using a series of three books by Warren Wiersbe. There is always plenty of interesting discussion so please come along if you can.

We meet on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in Langtree Sunday School, aiming to finish at about 9pm.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

I've received notification that our shoeboxes (140) have been delivered to children in Moldova and The Balkans (South Eastern Europe). Thank you for your help, generosity and prayers. More information can be found on the Samaritan's Purse Website.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

Blessings - Cathy

NORTHAM METHODIST CHURCH

An Invitation to Northam and Bideford's Bible Study

This group is open to all: If YOU would like to join us you would be VERY WELCOME, even if you can only come now and then. We are very much a discussion group where we all learn from each other.

We meet on Tuesday Afternoons at 2pm at the home of Diana Yendall & led by Julia Spencer
Contact 01237 477836 or 01237 425361 – Lynne Burgon will also be involved in the leading of the sessions.

We are studying **Women of the Old Testament - 12 Studies by Gladys Hunt**

March 4th

Abigail: A level headed Woman

1 Samuel 25: 2-44

LENT COURSE and Easter Break

April 29th	The Shunammite Woman: Taking the Initiative	2 Kings 4: 8-37
May 6th	Esther: Captive in a strange Land	Esther 2 and 4
May 13th	Esther: Courage to act	Esther 5: 1-8 and chapters 7 and 8
May 20th	The Model Wife: A Portrait of Excellence	Proverbs 31: 10-31

NORTHAM THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Starts at 2.15pm - £2 including Speaker, Draw & refreshments

March 6 – Maggie with a Quiz & Cake
March 20 – Gareth Cross – Local Veterinary Surgeon
Apr 3 – TBC
April 17 – Maggie & Della
May 1 – Outing
May 15 – Jenny’s Cream Tea.

MILTON DAMEREL METHODIST CHURCH

Ecumenical Bible Study Group - Our Bible Study in conjunction with Thornbury/Bradford Anglicans was held fortnightly on WEDNESDAY mornings at 10.30 am in Milton Schoolroom. **We are on hold at the present time but hopefully will restart in the near future.**

Please contact David & Janet Fisher (Tel: 07858506973) or Grace Millman (Tel: 01409261251) for further details.

THEOLOGY EVERYWHERE

The limitless love of Christ by George Bailey.

‘It [love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.’ 1 Corinthians 13:7 (NRSV)

This verse has been in my reflections recently – the lectionary reading for 2nd February, so also in our weekly Bible study, and featured at several weddings and funerals this month. The key questions I have are whether love has any limits, and how do we read this responsibly in the midst of unbearable suffering?

The first issue is to consider how it is best to translate this verse into English. The NRSV translation above is close to the Greek text and follows the King James Version – ‘all things’ (panta) is repeated four times. Anthony Thistleton raises concerns with this, which I have found to resonate with people’s reactions: how can love have no limits? how can that work in reality? As

Thistleton puts it, bearing and believing all things, 'appears to support Marx's notion of Christianity as the opium of the people, or Nietzsche's concept of Christianity as "servile mediocrity," [...] or to form a basis for Freud to see Christian faith as 'a projection derived from inner conflicts resolved by wishful thinking which "believes all things" in order to "endure all things."' [1] Thistleton proposes an alternative translation to guard against these possible misunderstandings:

'It never tires of support, never loses faith, never exhausts hope, never gives up.' [2]

This moves away from the Greek, changing the 'all things' to a double negative, and altering the way the verbs work, especially requiring an interpretation to render 'bears' and 'endures'. The NIV offers a compromise between these two options:

'It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'

This also requires an interpretation to render 'bears all things,' but does not need to use double negatives, and avoids the problems with 'all things' – so making it easier to maintain that there are some things which love should not endure or believe, but it can though continue always to protect people and retain trust. [3]

All these translation considerations assume that the love here concerns the relationship between Christians and other people (i.e. from individuals to global issues). This is a common way to interpret verses 4-6, which describe the activity of love. Paul is implicitly listing negative ways that the Corinthian church people were behaving towards each other, and offering the opposite as a vision for community life. Given his arguments elsewhere, he is probably also implicitly offering his own behaviour towards them as a model of love in action. Both these perspectives feature in the way I sometimes use these verses in weddings and funerals, to encourage and celebrate the cultivation of a loving character.

However, there is a third way to interpret verse 4-7 – as a description of the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. It makes sense to read these verses, replacing the word 'love' with 'Jesus.' This helps with the pastoral problem of positing such an idealised vision of Christian lifestyle, one which no human can fully exemplify... except that is for Jesus. Karl Barth proposes this; though he does follow the simpler reading for verses 4-6 as encouraging a Christian character, he especially focuses his interpretation of verse 7 in a more Christological way:

'At this point we catch an unmistakable glimpse of the pattern of Christian existence. And this pattern, the royal man Jesus, is not only the pattern but also the living Head of His community and all its members, in whose life and therefore in whose victory they may participate as such, not just passively but actively, as active subjects. When they love, they become and are this. When they love, they withstand the whole world of hostile forces and defeat it. If in all activities wrought by the Spirit Christians are in undecided conflict with this world, when they love this world is already under and behind them.' [4]

Some situations are extremely challenging to human endurance and threaten the possibility of maintaining human hope and faith. It is here, Barth seems to be saying, that the persistence of love is not a burden to be carried by humans on their own, but it is an activity of Christ, and by the work of the Holy Spirit the community of Christ participates in Christ as love.

David Prior is inspired by Barth's comments to subtitle his interpretation of verse 7 as 'Love and apparent darkness in God.'^[5] I think this is helpful and is pushing further towards the acknowledgement that there are situations which cause us to question whether God cares, or even if God is really there – we cry out to God in the darkness, 'Why?!' Human pain can find a voice in these verses, which should not ever be used to diminish the experience of those who struggle to endure suffering. Perhaps verse 7 is most appropriately interpreted first from a Christological perspective – it is precisely because there are things which we cannot bear and endure, and situations in which our faith and hope are lost, that we need the love of Christ, which is victorious even in death. Jesus Christ 'bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things,' and this is where we place our faith and hope in unbearable situations.

Paul ends the passage 'faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love' (v13) – in the resurrection life, our faith is different to how we experience it now, for we will be face to face with God; hope is different, for time is no more within God's eternity; but love is the relationship between us and God, in Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit. What we glimpse of that suffering love of Christ, with us and for us, when we face suffering now, will remain and be completely realised in our eternal relationship with God.

[1] Anthony C. Thistleton, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. The New International Greek Testament Commentary. Eerdmans's; Paternoster Press, 2000. p1056-7.

[2] *ibid.*, p1026.

[3] Other commentators are divided on this translation issue: e.g. Gordon Fee uses the NIV option (*The First Epistle to the Corinthians, Revised Edition*. Eerdmans's, 2014. p522); both David Garland (*1 Corinthians: Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*. Baker Academic, 2003. p486) and Paul Gardner use the NRSV option, but Gardner in particular, also acknowledges that Thistleton's concerns need to be considered whenever that version is interpreted (*1 Corinthians: Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*. Harper Collins, 2018. p574).

[4] Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*. Volume 4, part 2, *The Doctrine of Reconciliation*. (eds. G W Bromiley, Thomas F Torrance). T & T Clark, 1958. p835

[5] David Prior, *The Message of 1 Corinthians: Life in the local church*. IVP, 1993. p232.

George Bailey is the moderator of Theology Everywhere. The rest of the time he is a Co-Superintendent in Leeds North and East Circuit and a lecturer at Cliff College. He has been in

ministry in Leeds for sixteen years, including previously in the Leeds (Wesley) Circuit. He has been minister with four Local Ecumenical Partnerships and was District Ecumenical Officer for four years. He has studied theology in Oxford, Manchester and Cambridge, and now at Cliff College is the lecturer in Mission and Wesleyan Studies. His call has always included a mixture of academic study and practical ministry – Theology Everywhere is the just one outworking of that.

The **Theology Everywhere** website is made available by the Methodist Church as one of the actions being taken to create a learning church. Contributors are from varied backgrounds; many but not all are Methodist. The views expressed are the responsibility of the authors and do not represent the position of the Methodist Church.

The moderator of Theology Everywhere is Rev'd Dr George Bailey. Enquiries should be addressed to him at george.bailey@methodist.org.uk

The following is the Plan/Lectionary for March, April & May

HC= Holy Communion	PC= At Parish Church
MC= Methodist Church	C& F= Coffee and Fellowship
Café= Café Worship	SB=Sunday Breakfast
T = Transport	LUAL – Light Up A Light
CA – Church Anniversary	

Post codes of Chapels

Alverdiscott – EX31 3PT	Bideford (High Street) – EX39 2AN
Buckland Brewer – EX39 5LP	Langtree – EX38 8NF
Littleham – EX39 5HW	Milton Damerel – EX22 7DJ
Northam – EX39 1BS	Parkham – EX39 5PG
Shebbear – EX21 5SJ	Torrington – EX38 8AL

LECTIONARY for March, April & May

Transfiguration Year C - Exodus 34.29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2; Luke 9.28-36,(37-43)

Lent 1 Year C - Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Psalm 91.1-2,9-16; Romans 10.8b-13; Luke 4.1-13

Lent 2 Year C - Genesis 15.1-12,17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3.17-4.1; Luke 13.31-35

Lent 3 Year C - Isaiah 55.1-9; Psalm 63.1-8; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13; Luke 13.1-9

Lent 4 Year C - Joshua 5.9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5.16-21; Luke 15.1-3,11b-32 (Mothering)

Lent 5 Year C - Isaiah 43.16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8 (Passion)

Palm Sunday Year C - Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 118.1-2,19-29; Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 19.28-40; Luke 22.14-23.56

Easter Day Year C - Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.1-2,14-24; 1 Corinthians 15.19-26; John 20.1-18; Luke 24.1-12

Easter 2 Year C - Acts 5.27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31

Easter 3 Year C – Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14

Easter 4 Year C – Acts 9: 36-41; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17

Easter 5 Year C – Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; John 13:31-35

**Or (Aldersgate Sunday) Isaiah 12:1-6 or Isaiah 51:1-3,7-11; Psalm 130; Romans 5-1-11
or 2 Peter 1:1-11; Mark 12:28-37 or Luke 10:1-12, 17-20**

Easter 6 Year C – Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10,22 – 22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Ascension Day Year C – Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93: Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

WHEN THE SHIPS COME IN

Anchors and ships in glass cases are not part of the interior decor at the Seafarers Centre in Tilbury. The centre is operated by QVSR, Queen Victoria Seafarers Rest, and part of the Methodist family. When QVSR refurbished the centre, having taken it over in 2016, they asked the ships' crews what they wanted their welfare centre to look like. With some of the sailors having been on board for months, the answer was, understandably, anything other than a ship!

Vessels in port are turned around so quickly that many crews do not have time to travel to London, just 20 miles away. The centre now resembles a "London experience" with a red telephone box, pictures of London landmarks, its own 'Queen Vic Bar' and even police helmets to try on for photos. "We listened to the crews and this is what they wanted," says Julie Hobby, the manager of the QVSR London Tilbury Seafarers Centre. "Traveling the world, the seafarers want to impress their families. Those we see are often quite young. While they are not well paid but they are proud of what they do and many have studied at college for years to work on these ships."

The port at Tilbury is vast, covering some 1000 acres and handles some 16 million tonnes of cargo each year. The landscape is industrial. "When you're in a port, you're surrounded by ships, you're smaller than them. You have to fit around what they're doing and what the company wants to do. You're not really your own person." Says Alexander Campbell, CEO of QVSR.

The Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference, visited the centre in February. "I asked if I could come after I'd been to QVSR headquarters in London's East End to give their annual lecture. I was so impressed that, rather than just be told about the work, I wanted to come to Tilbury and see for myself."

At the centre there are 24-hour facilities alongside a small chapel. Outside a basketball court, a pitch and putt course and table tennis keep the guests busy. The centre is also the base for the port's chaplaincy team who go on board the ships in port to meet with crew.

Down on the riverfront, Helen visited the QVSR Cruise Crew Lounge that is part of the centre's offering to support seafarers. Located on a floating jetty at the London International Cruise Terminal at Tilbury, the same jetty where the HMT Empire Windrush landed, the centre provides a place for the crews of the cruise ships visiting London. Crew may only get a few hours on shore so the lounge provides somewhere for them to chat that is away from the ship, to contact their families in private using one of the red phone booths (communication pods) or ask for support.

The chaplaincy team regularly go on board the ships to talk with crew. This can involve a perilous walk up a gangway. "These gangways can be way up above the water. My car looks the size of a biscuit from up there. Depending on the ship and the tide, the walkways can be steep and slippery," says chaplain Ruth Campbell.

"We go on board and listen. Sometimes we can be there to help the sailors during a crisis. We were once asked to go on board one ship to support a father whose five-year old child had died while he was at sea."

During Covid, unvaccinated crewmembers were unable to leave their ships to prevent the risk of the disease spreading to all on board. The Seafarers Centre at Tilbury was only second to Houston, Texas for the number of vaccinations it gave to mariners. The centre arranged for 226,000 sailors to be vaccinated during the pandemic.

The Revd Helen Cameron commented about her visit, "As we drove around the port I was reminded how important the work here is. In a global world, our society is dependent on our ports.

"I was moved by how person-centered the whole project is. What they provide is a restful and welcoming space, somewhere to be quiet, reflective and to pray. Somewhere safe to ask for help and support. This is a godly place and, for me, a sacred space."

Tilbury is one of four centres that are operated around the UK by QVSR. The other centres are in Bristol, Immingham and Felixstowe.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA

On 16 January, the United Church of Zambia, one of the Methodist Church in Britain's African partner churches, celebrated the 60th Anniversary of its' founding in Mindola, Kitwe in Northern Zambia.

The Revd Richard Andrew, the President Designate of the Methodist Conference, was invited to preach at this special service marking a historic moment.

The Revd Richard Andrew, his wife, Debbie, and the Revd Andrew Ashdown, partnership coordinator for Africa, also visited a number of projects, schools, hospitals and churches throughout Zambia.

The UCZ was formed in 1965 when Methodists played a major part in its founding, along with the London Missionary Society, the Church of Scotland and other Protestant Churches.

Today, UCZ is the largest Protestant denomination in Zambia and its' ministries include community development, health and education provision, spiritual formation, Christian education, addressing social justice issues and meeting the contemporary challenges facing Church and society.

"The country has been severely impacted by drought and issues around climate change feature in many conversations. It's particularly important in a country which is reliant upon hydro-electric power and where crop failure has a disproportionate impact on families which already struggle to meet their basic needs. But I came away full of admiration for a Church that is alive in the Spirit and from whom we have so much to learn. God bless Zambia and God bless the UCZ."

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
	Sunday before Lent	Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3	Lent 4 Mothering
At Home Worship	X	Vidamour Zoom 6.30pm	Buckland Live Stream 10am	Buckland Live Stream 10am	Buckland Live Stream 10am
Bideford 10.30am	Potter	Bate	Vidamour HC	Booth	Ley
Northam 10.30am	Vidamour HC	Ley	F Watson	Harris	Vidamour
		SHEBBEAR	METHODIST	CHURCH	
Black Torrington Friday 3pm	X	Blackhall on 7th March	X	F Watson on 21st March	X
Langtree 11am	Price	@Parish Church	Blackhall HC	@Lake	LA
Milton Damerel 11am	X	Harris	Cafe	@Lake	X
Shebbear 10.30am	Hall-Tomkin	C&F	United @Parish Church	Davis United	X
Sheepwash 11am	Withall	@Baptist Church At 3pm	@Parish Church	@Village Hall	@Village Hall
	TORRINGTON	WITH	ALVERDISCOTT	METHODIST CHURCH	
Alverdiscott 11am	Blackhall HC	X	Withall	X	@Parish Church
Torrington 10.30am	F Watson	Blackhall HC	Price	Hall-Tomkin	Blackhall
	WEST	TORRIDGE	METHODIST	CHURCH	
Buckland Brewer 10am (PC)	Hayes HC Parish Church @9.30am	Booth Parish Church			
10am (MC)			J Skinner 9.30am Concert 4pm	Blackhall HC	D Watson
Littleham 10.30am	X	Davis	X	Potter	X
Parkham 11am	D Watson	Vidamour SB 10am	J Skinner	Hayes HC @Parish Church	S Skinner @Parish Church

	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
	Lent 5	Palm Sunday	Easter Sunday	Easter 2
At Home Worship	X	F Watson Zoom 6.30pm on Mon 14th April	X	Buckland Live Stream 10am
Bideford 10.30am	Vidamour	F Watson	Harris HC	Lavington URC United
Northam 10.30am	D Watson	Bate	Vidamour HC	Price
		SHEBBEAR	METHODIST	CHURCH
Black Torrington Friday 3pm	X	Vidamour on 11th April	X	Blackhall HC on 25th April
Langtree 11am	Blackhall	@Parish Church	Booth HC	@Lake
Milton Damerel 11am	X	Cafe	Ley HC	@Lake
Shebbear 10.30am	Withall	C&F	United @Parish Church	F Watson HC United
Sheepwash 11am	Ley HC	@Baptist Church At 3pm	@Parish Church	@Village Hall
	TORRINGTON	WITH	ALVERDISCOTT	METHODIST CHURCH
Alverdiscott 11am	Price	X	Potter HC	X
Torrington 10.30am	Sambles	Harris	Blackhall/F Watson HC	Booth
	WEST	TORRIDGE	METHODIST	CHURCH
Buckland Brewer 10am (PC)	S Skinner HC Parish Church @11am	Blackhall Parish Church	S Skinner HC Parish Church @9.30am	
10am (MC)				Blackhall
Littleham 10.30am	X	Vidamour HC	X	Harris
Parkham 11am	Hall-Tomkin	SB 10am @Parish Church	S Skinner HC Parish Church	Macwilliam Songs of Praise @Parish Church

Maundy Thursday 17th April Services at Northam at 10.30am – Vidamour HC
Torrington at 7pm – Blackhall/F Watson

Good Friday 18th April – Services at Northam at 3pm – Vidamour
Alverdiscott at 11am – Blackhall/F Watson HC
Buckland Brewer at 2pm – Parish Church

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5	Easter 6
At Home Worship	X	Potter Zoom 6.30pm Easter Offering Service	Buckland Live Stream 10am	Buckland Live Stream 10am
Bideford 10.30am	Withall	Blackhall	Vidamour HC	Price
Northam 10.30am	Hall-Tomkin	LA	Davis Fellowship 4pm	Potter HC
		SHEBBEAR	METHODIST	CHURCH
Black Torrington Friday 3pm	X	Vidamour on 9 th May	X	X
Langtree 11am	Davis	@Parish Church	F Watson	@Lake
Milton Damerel 11am	X	Withall	Cafe	@Lake
Shebbear 10.30am	Booth	C&F	United @Parish Church	Blackhall HC United
Sheepwash 11am	D Watson	@Baptist Church At 3pm	@Parish Church	@Village Hall
	TORRINGTON	WITH	ALVERDISCOTT	METHODIST CHURCH
Alverdiscott 11am	F Watson	X	Blackhall HC	X
Torrington 10.30am	Blackhall	Whatton HC	Macbeth	Bate
	WEST	TORRIDGE	METHODIST	CHURCH
Buckland Brewer 10am (PC) 10am (MC)	S Skinner HC Parish Church @9.30am	D Watson Parish Church	 Macwilliam	 Harris
Littleham 10.30am	X	Vidamour HC	X	Withall
Parkham 11am	Vidamour HC	SB	S Skinner @Parish Church	S Skinner @Parish Church Rogation

Activities, Events and Meetings March 2025

Sat 01 Zero Discrimination Day

Coffee Morning

10:00-11:15

Northam

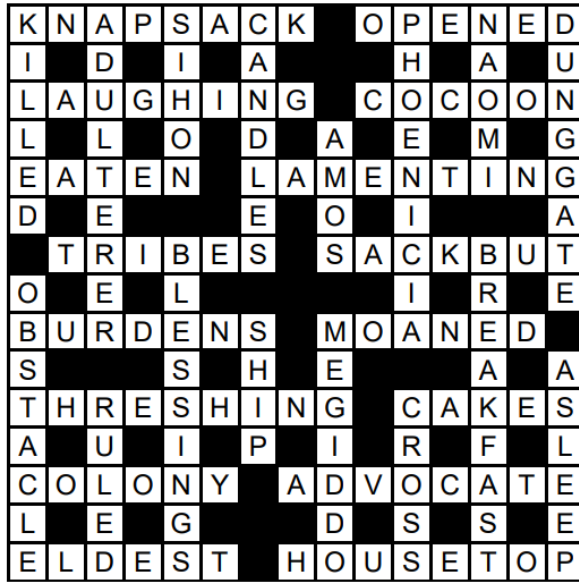
Sun 02 Church Action on Poverty Sunday

	Holy Communion	09:30	St Mary & St Benedict, Buckland Brewer
	Holy Communion	10:30	Northam
	Holy Communion	11:00	Alverdiscott
Mon 03	World Wildlife Day		
	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-11:30	Buckland Brewer
Tue 04	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:00-10:30	Northam
	Circuit Meeting	14:00	Torrington
Wed 05	Ash Wednesday		
	International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness		
	Mid Week Morning Prayer	09:30	Torrington
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	Worship and Community Lunch <i>(Booking for Lunch required)</i>	11:30	Northam
	Circuit Lent Study (Prayer as friendship)	14:00	Northam
	Holy Communion with Ashing	19:00	Torrington
Thu 06	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Alverdiscott
	Thursday Fellowship (Quiz & Cake)	14:15	Northam
	Circuit Lent Study (Prayer as friendship)	19:00	Zoom
	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 07	World Day of Prayer		
Sat 08	International Women's Day		
	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
Sun 09	COVID-19 Day of Reflection		
	Coffee and Fellowship	10:30	Shebbear (Lake)
	Holy Communion	10:30	Torrington
	Sunday Breakfast with Baptism	11:00	Parkham
	Online Evening Worship	18:30	Zoom

Mon 10	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-11:30	Buckland Brewer
	Circuit Discussion Morning	10:00-12:00	Northam
Tue 11	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:00-10:30	Northam
	Circuit Lent Study (Prayer as rhythm)	14:00	Northam
Wed 12	Mid Week Morning Prayer	09:30	Torrington
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	Local Preachers Meeting	14:30	Northam
Thu 13	Circuit Lent Study (Prayer as rhythm)	19:00	Zoom
	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 14	Torrington United Churches Lenten Lunch	12:00-13:45	St Michael's, Torrington
Sat 15	International Day to Combat Islamophobia		
	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Torrington
Sun 16	Holy Communion	10:30	Bideford
	Café Worship	11:00	Milton Damerel
	Holy Communion	11:00	Langtree
Mon 17	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-11:30	Buckland Brewer
	Circuit Young People & Families Meeting	13:15	Buckland Brewer
Tue 18	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:00-10:30	Northam
	Circuit Lent Study (Forms of prayer)	14:00	Northam
Wed 19	Joseph of Nazareth		
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	14:00	Alverdiscott
Thu 20	Thursday Fellowship (Gareth Cross)	14:15	Northam
	Circuit Lent Study (Forms of prayer)	19:00	Zoom
	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination		
	World Down Syndrome Day		

	Torrington United Churches Lenten Lunch	12:00-13:45	Torrington
Sat 22	World Water Day		
	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
	Earth Hour	20:30-21:30	
Sun 23	Holy Communion	10:00	Buckland Brewer
	Holy Communion	11:00	St James's, Parkham
Mon 24	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-11:30	Buckland Brewer
Tue 25	The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary		
	International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade		
	Toddlers' Tune Time	09:00-10:30	Northam
	Circuit Lent Study (When prayer is hard)	14:00	Northam
Wed 26	Mid Week Morning Prayer	09:30	Torrington
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Buckland Brewer
Thu 27	Circuit Lent Study (When prayer is hard)	19:00	Zoom
	Bible Study	19:30	Langtree
Fri 28	Torrington United Churches Lenten Lunch	12:00-13:45	Torrington Baptist Church
Sat 29	Coffee Morning	10:00-11:15	Northam
	Coffee Morning	10:00-12:00	Bideford
Sun 30	Mothering Sunday		
	International Day of Zero Waste		
Mon 31	International Transgender Day of Visibility		
	'Time Together' Toddler Group	09:30-11:30	Buckland Brewer

BIBLE CROSSWORD XIII - SOLUTION

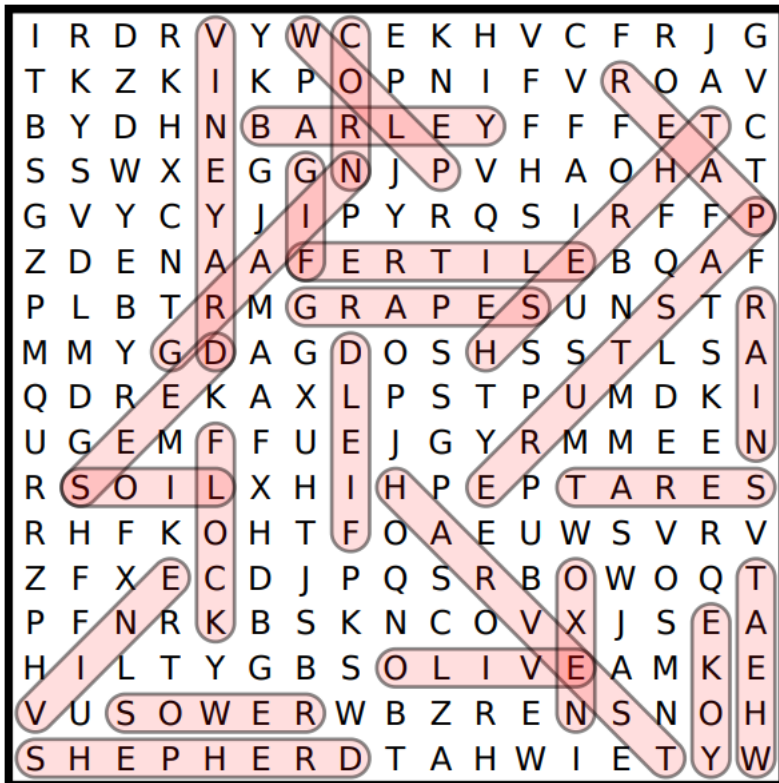


Across: 1 Knapsack, 5 Opened, 9 Laughing, 10 Cocoon, 12 Eaten, 13 Lamenting, 14 Tribes, 16 Sackbut, 19 Burdens, 21 Moaned, 23 Threshing, 25 Cakes, 26 Colony, 27 Advocate, 28 Eldest, 29 Housetop.

Down: 1 Killed, 2 Adulterer, 3 Sihon, 4 Candles, 6 Phoenicia, 7 Naomi, 8 Dung Gate, 11 Amos, 15 Blessings, 17 Breakfast, 18 Obstacle, 20 Ship, 21 Megiddo, 22 Asleep, 24 Ruled, 25 Cross.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com

Farming in the Bible Word Search – Solution



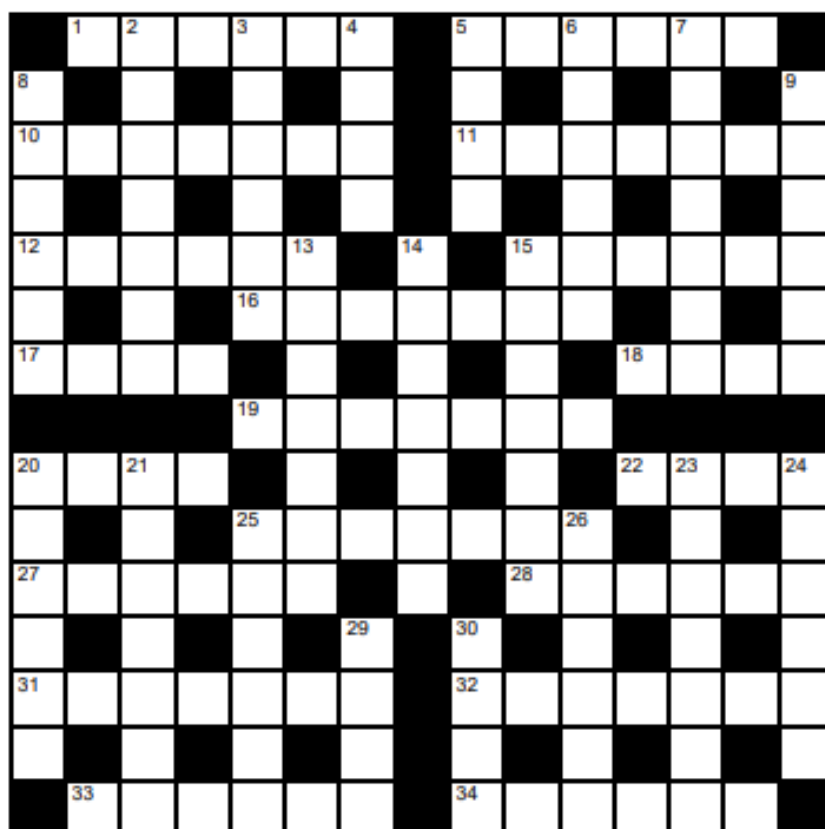
BIBLE CROSSWORD XIV

Across

- 1 Body of water the Israelites walked through (3,3)
- 5 As Gideon, Othniel and others did (6)
- 10 Very salty water! (4,3)
- 11 Brave fighter (7)
- 12 Queen of Persia (6)
- 15 Combat (6)
- 16 Ceremonies (7)
- 17 City of Persian kings (4)
- 18 Posted (4)
- 19 Descendant of Esau (7)
- 20 Fair (4)
- 22 A son of Benjamin (4)
- 25 Corrupted (7)
- 27 One of the churches (6)
- 28 Having the nature of God (6)
- 31 River of Damascus (7)
- 32 Marriage (7)
- 33 Ancient unit of distance (6)
- 34 Wanderers (6)

Down

- 2 Treasurer of Corinth (7)
- 3 Mary's relation to Martha (6)
- 4 Seventh king of Israel (4)
- 5 God's people (4)
- 6 Also known as Tabitha (6)
- 7 Letter (7)
- 8 Serpents (6)
- 9 Sacred minister (6)
- 13 Puzzles (7)
- 14 Upheaval (7)
- 15 Erased, when with 'out' (7)



by Philologus

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- 20 Husband of Mary (6)
- 21 Obedient helper (7)
- 23 Enlightened (7)
- 24 Seek retribution (6)
- 25 As Jesus did with a sop (6)
- 26 Crown (6)
- 29 Region (4)
- 30 Jacob was one (4)

NEHEMIAH WORD SEARCH



ARTAXERXES
BAVAI
BENJAMIN
CHISLEU
COVENANT
CUPBEARER
DUNG GATE
ELIASHIB
EZER
FIRE

FISH GATE
FOUNTAIN
GATE
GATES
HACHALIAH
HANANEEL
HANANI
HANNANIAH
HANUN
HASHABIAH

HASHUB
HATTUSH
JEDAIAH
JEHOIADA
JERUSALEM
LEVITES
MALCHIJAH
MARUCH
MEAH
MESHULLAM

NEHEMIAH
NISAN
REHUM
REPHAIAH
SHALLUN
SORROW
TEKOITES
VALLEY GATE
ZACCUR

BUCKLAND BREWER METHODIST CHURCH PRESENT

'OUR ATLANTIC ROOTS' IN CONCERT

SUNDAY 16th MARCH 2025 at 4pm



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Other details on their website [www. https://www.ouratlanticroots.com/](https://www.ouratlanticroots.com/)

ADMISSION IS BY DONATION, BUT WE ASK FOR A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF £10

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