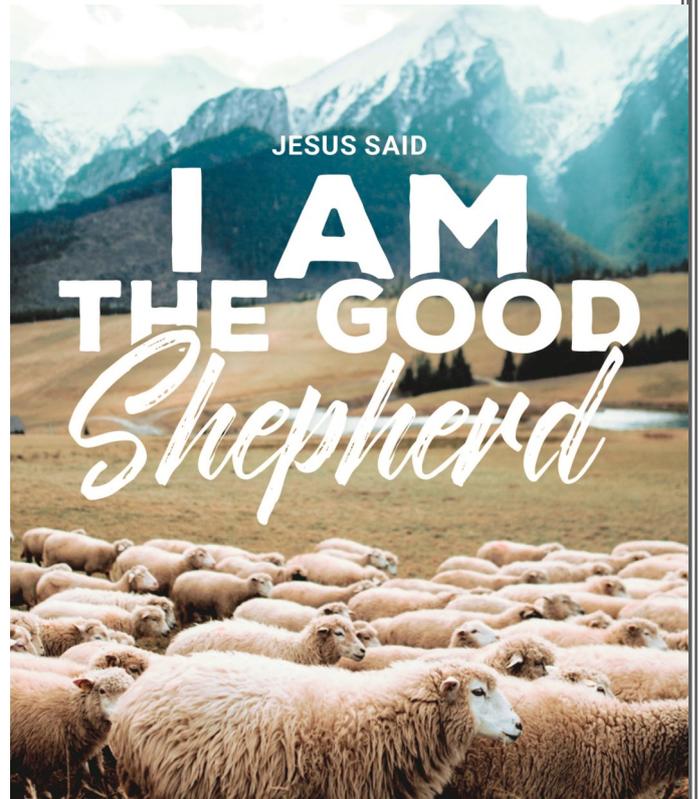


The Messenger



February 2020

Trinity
United
Reformed
Church
Upminster



Elder`s letter

Dear Friends,

February is the month that Valentine's Day or Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated. There are a number of stories associated with St Valentine's Day including a Roman priest named Valentine who was persecuted as Christian. He was interrogated by the Roman Emperor Claudius II who attempted to convert him to Roman Paganism to save his life. However Valentine refused and even tried to convert Claudius II to Christianity. Because of this Valentine was executed. But before his execution Valentine performed a miracle by healing the jailer's blind daughter, who with her family became to believe in Jesus and were baptised.

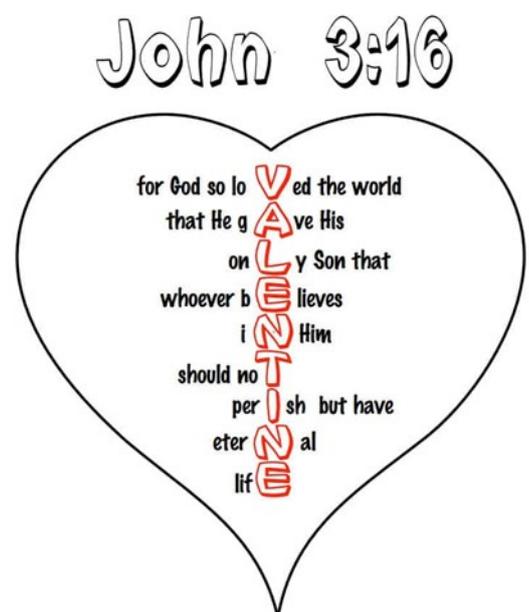
Today, St Valentine's Day is mainly associated with romantic love and can create a variety of emotions for different people. For some it creates great satisfaction celebrating the love you have between you, your spouse, and your friends & family. For others it can cause feelings of loneliness as they are missing a loved one or are single.

In the build up to Valentine's Day when the shops try to entice us to purchase cards, chocolates, flowers and other gifts to express our love to those around us. We remember that God's love is not a temporary pleasure or a disposable item that we place in our shopping baskets but his love is enduring, so much so that he gave his only son for us (the bible verse from John 3:16 spells out Valentine as shown in the picture) and that we have responsibility to love one another.

Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate Gods love to us and may we show this to everyone around us by ensuring all that we do is done with God's love.

Linda Legrand



Family News

At the end of January, Chris H been a member of Trinity Church for 50 years. We send our congratulations to Chris and thank her for contribution to the life of Trinity.

We are delighted to hear that Rebecca Woodgate became engaged to William Birbeck on Christmas Day. We send our congratulations to them.

Congratulations go to Sonia and Mike's grandson Joshua who recently graduated from the University of Durham with a Bachelors of Arts in Theology and to Brenda's granddaughter Leila who has been selected to represent her school in Badminton.

We pray for those members of our congregation who are unwell or facing uncertainty. At this time we especially think of Frank & Margaret, Rosemary, Mavis, Dee and Ian & Meryl, Jackie's Dad's Bernard and all church members who have been or currently suffering with the cold/virus that is going around.

We also remember church friends further afield who are unwell and particularly think of Rev Phil, Jean from Nelmes, Dorothy B and Alan.

We think of those unable to worship with us at present and especially Doris, Kath and Joan.



Our thanks go to the retiring Elders their service to the church. We prayer for the new and current Elders, our Church Secretary, Church Treasurer and Minster Ann and thank them for their continual support and guidance to the church.

If you have any item you wish to be included in Family News, please contact one of the Elders.

World Day of Prayer

This year the service will be held at Upminster Methodist Church, on Friday 6th March at 2.00 p.m. followed by refreshments. The worship has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe on the theme "Take up your mat and walk", and everyone is welcome at this inspiring world-wide ecumenical act of worship.

Please come and support the local committee members, who represent most of the churches in Churches Together,

Messenger Deadline for March issue

Please submit any articles for the March issue by 6pm on Wednesday 19th February with dates up to and including 29th March The Messenger will be ready for distribution on Sunday 1st March

mikeaddis1@btinternet.com

Social & Fundraising

We had a fantastic response to our first 'Saturday Sales', raising £104 for Hope4Haveriiing from the Craft sale in January. This month we are holding a 'Jewellery Sale' on Saturday 8 February 10 –12 noon.

The official launch of the charity will be on Sunday 16th February :

9.30	Worship
10 .30	Coffee
11.00	Quiz
11,45	Lunch
12.45	Presentation by Hope4Havering

I hope as many people as possible will come to learn about the work of the charity, to eat good food, to enjoy one another's company and to raise some money!

Dates for your diary

Saturday 4 March	China & Glass Sale
Friday 16 April	Musical Cheese & Wine
Saturday 9 Mary	Lawn Sale
Thursday 4 June	Afternoon Tea for Marie Curie
Saturday 13 June	Lawn Sale

Harold Hill Foodbank

Brian and I continue to volunteer at the Foodbank once a week and we are kept busy handling and sorting food donations and supplying food to those people in crisis.

Thank you to everyone who has donated food in the past year. Trinity donated an amazing 320kg of food in 2019.

Please continue to donate; the Foodbank is especially in need of UHT milk (whole milk if possible for those families with young children), long-life fruit juice, tinned meat, tinned rice pudding, tinned custard, sponge puddings, coffee and instant mashed potato. Of course, any tinned and packaged goods are very welcome, though the Foodbank does have plenty of cereal, biscuits, baked beans, pasta, soup, tea and tinned tomatoes.

The Foodbank is urgently in need of more volunteers. Volunteers usually work for one day per week, from 10.30am-1.30pm. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Mark (the manager) on 01708 386323 or 07825 758028. For more information visit harold-hill.foodbank.org.uk

Chris Willis

Andrew Leeder's tribute to his Mum Doreen

Mum was born in Bethnal Green on 31 Aug 1929 to Ada Alice and Henry George Lord Young John Eric arrived on the scene on 15 Jan 1936 when Mum was 6. Their father got a promotion and they moved to Morden in Surrey.

Then on 23 July 1938 whilst on holiday on the loW her father dies from peritonitis and poor Nan has to bring her dead husband and two young children back to London. This definitely had a psychological impact on Mum throughout her life, and because of John's age (only 2) Mum became almost like a second Mum to him and they were always very close.

Unfortunately Nan could not afford the mortgage and so they moved back to Bethnal Green, near Mum's grandparents. On the brink of war the 3 of them were evacuated to Suffolk on Sep 2, the day before the declaration of war. Initially they lived in Woolpit and Mum went to the local school but having passed her 11+ she went to Grammar school in Bury-St-Edmunds and due to the distance they moved a few miles to Elmswell from where Mum could catch the train to school or cycle the 10 miles.

One of Mum's closest friends was another Doreen from a farming family near Sudbury who was a year older but in the same class because the local children were held back a year for the evacuees from London. This Doreen managed to get to Mum's 90th at the end of August but sadly fell down the stairs and died on 11 September just gone. Despite the sad loss of her father and the trauma of WW2 and evacuation, Mum always looked back on her years in Suffolk as some of her happiest times.

At the end of the war whilst Mum was left to finish school in Bury, Nan and John went back to Bethnal Green to the same flat, as the grandparents had paid the rent all through the war.

Mum would have loved to go to university and study medicine but ended up training to be a dispensing chemist with Boots and for some of her early career worked shifts in the bigger branches in London. Although she later became a career housewife and mother she went back to pharmacy when we were at Grammar School.

Mum met Dad through a church drama group, perhaps that's where I get my desire to be on the stage. They got engaged in the summer of '49 and got married on 8 September 1951.

After 2 earlier miscarriages, on 28 July 1955 along comes David, born in the London hospital, their first bundle of joy. A new baby needs more space and so on 5 November 1957 they move into Nyth Close, Upminster.

On 18 March 1960 their greatest achievement, the modest me, comes along, born at home, but dad has decided to stay out the way by being in hospital in traction with a badly broken femur caused by a runaway van hitting him and David while out for a walk on Hall Lane only weeks before my arrival.

I had a happy childhood going to Engayne and Hornchurch Grammar and attending Sunday School in this church where Mum was very involved with the Beginners and where Mum struck up her strong friendship with Joan Mead which was the foundation of my great friendship with her sons Kevin & Graham. We, along with Judith Harding, Janet Lowry, Neil Dickenson, Mark and Anne Willets, Gillian Newell and others formed the thriving Church Youth Club in the 1970's which Mum and Dad helped with

Sadly Uncle John passed away on 10 October. Having been diagnosed with cancer he ended up in Derham House with Mum for his last few weeks. We didn't tell Mum, not wanting to traumatise her given her dementia but bizarrely she chose the day of John's funeral to finally depart.

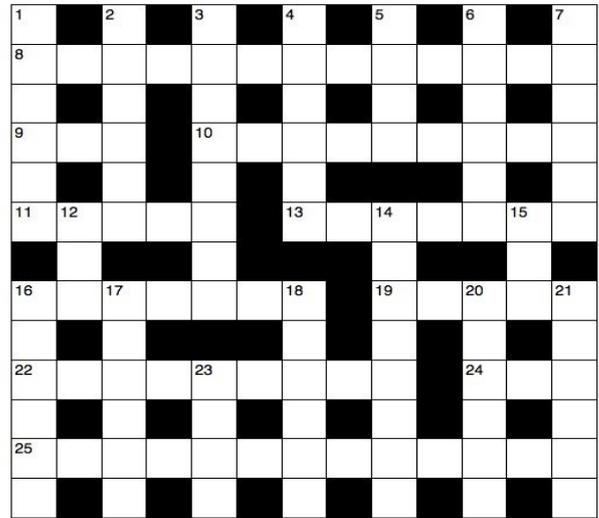
Puzzle Page (answers on page 10)

Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)



- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

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8	4							

Valence House - A Place of Discovery (part one)

Listed as one of the top 50 best free things to do in London, Valence House is the only surviving Manor House in Dagenham, East London. In medieval times, Dagenham, Barking and Ilford were part of the Manor of Barking owned by Barking Abbey. Valence House was one of the smaller manors on the land, rented out to generate income for the Abbey. Now a museum, Valence House provides details about the history of the manor house and surrounding lands. The curators have also travelled back much further to the first settlers, explaining how the area developed into the place it is today.

The earliest reference to Valence House is in approximately 1269, however, the first-named inhabitant moved to the property in 1291. This was Agnes de Valence (born 1250), the youngest daughter of William de Valence and Joan de Munchensi (1230-1307). The family had a strong influence on the politics of the 13th century, particularly William de Valence who was the half-brother to Henry III of England and uncle to Edward I. Initially Agnes was married off to an Irish man, however, he died soon afterwards and she returned to England. Agnes was then married off to the Scottish magnate Hugh de Balliol, however, once again, it was not to last. After a third short arranged marriage, Agnes de Valence moved to the manor house, which to this day retains her name.

Nothing is known about Agnes' life at Valence House or those directly following her, however, by 1435, Barking Abbey had sold the manor of Valence to St Anthony's Hospital in London (now in the London Borough of Sutton). Four decades later, Edward IV (1442-83), the first Yorkist King, granted the hospital and Valence House to the Dean and Chapter of Windsor. Meanwhile, the house continued to be let out.

The lease of the house found its way into the hands of the Fanshawe family, whose portraits fill one of the rooms of the exhibition. Unfortunately, Henry Fanshawe died while his daughter Susanna (1567-1610) was still a baby, leaving the lease of the house to her, which she would gain upon marriage. In 1583, Susanna married Timothy Lucy of Charlecote Park, Warwickshire and moved into Valence House until they sold the lease in 1596 to Sir Nicholas Coote, during which time they had eight children.

During redevelopments of the museum in 2008, a sixteenth-century wall painting behind a false wall was discovered. It has been dated to the time that Susanna Lucy may have lived at the manor and is believed to be one of many panels that would have once decorated an entire room. The painting depicts a grotesque satyr-like creature with red hair carrying a basket of fruit on its head. The chains around the legs suggest the satyr is a prisoner or slave. Whilst the dating of the painting suggests it may have been commissioned by Timothy Lucy, dating a centuries-old painting is a difficult task and some experts suggest that it may have been produced the following century. One of the reasons for this suggestion is the subject matter. Traditionally, satyrs represent lust and boar-like creatures, which also feature in the artwork, represent rudeness and wildness. This is a strange topic for a family man to commission, therefore, it may have been the purchase of a future tenant: Thomas Bonham.

Thomas Bonham (d.1676), a London merchant rented the house from 1635. If his tombstone inside Dagenham Parish Church is anything to go by, Bonham led an aberrant life and was involved in many scandals. On one occasion, both he and his wife ended up spending time in Colchester jail.

Stay wayfarer! Lest you be ignorant who is buried here, it is worth your while to know that it is Thomas Bonham Esquire, Lord of Valentia in Essex. He is ever to be praised and can never, alas, be sufficiently lamented. This marble cannot contain his other virtues, nor indeed scarcely would the quarry itself from which it is hewn.

– *Inscription on Thomas Bonham's tomb*

Valence House (continued)

Each new tenant of Valence House modernised the building and landscape. When the estate was leased to Henry Merttins (d.1725), a merchant tailor, in 1719, he remodelled the property to make it more appropriate for his genteel family. The Merttins used Valence House as their main family home, adding fashionably large windows and touches of grandeur. Henry Merttins was a fairly wealthy man – his brother was the Lord Mayor of London, Sir George Merttins (1664-1727) – and when he died in 1725, passed the lease of the house to his son John Henry Merttins (d.1776) who remodelled the east wing of the house and built a new staircase. In 1776, Henry Merttins Bird (d.1818) became the next tenant of the house. Henry was in full support of the development of the United States of America and liaised with George Washington (1732-1799) after the American War of Independence.

“I presume to offer the services of the house of Henry Merttins Bird, Benjamin Savage & Robert Bird, known under the firm of Bird, Savage, & Bird, American merchants of London, in which I am a partner.”

Henry Merttins Bird in a letter to George Washington

Henry campaigned for trade with the USA to be restored, however, in the early 1800s, his banking company collapsed and he was forced to sell the lease on Valence House.

The following tenants included Mrs Greenhill and her eight children, who moved to Australia in 1861 where they also lived in a house called Valence.

In 1879, Thomas May, his wife Helen, six children and mother-in-law Eliza Luxmoore moved into Valence House. A further five children were born whilst living in the manor house, bringing their total up to eleven. Thomas was a farmer and became famous for introducing tomato growing to Dagenham. He also bred shire horses and founded the Essex Foal Show Society. In the walled garden, the May family grew grapes, apricots and peaches in greenhouses. The children loved to play in the gardens, often conducting funerals for and burying their dolls.

When Thomas May died in 1913, the same year as his mother-in-law, the lease was inherited by his eldest son Robert. Unfortunately, the family were forced to move when the London County Council purchased the property in 1921. They moved to Gidea Park where they named their new house Valence. A model of the estate as it looked in 1921 is located in the first room of the museum.

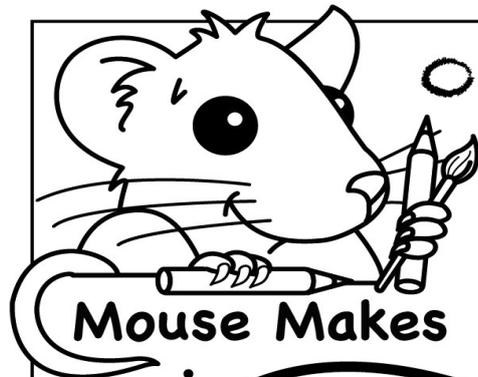
The London County Council purchased Valence House as well as the manor houses of Parsloes, Porters and Jenkins to use the land for its new Becontree Estate housing scheme. All the manor houses were scheduled for demolition, however, Valence House was saved in 1926 when it was purchased by the Dagenham Urban District Council for use as an office. The building was extended to create a council chamber on the first floor of the house. The council remained at the house until 1937 when it became the headquarters of the Borough's Library Service.

During the Second World War, Valence House became a post for the Air Raid Precautions (ARP). They provided locals with gas masks and ration books, and clothing to those who found themselves homeless. After the war, the Library Service continued to use the premises until 1974 when Valence House opened as a museum of the history of Barking and Dagenham.

To be continued next month ...

Hazel Stainer

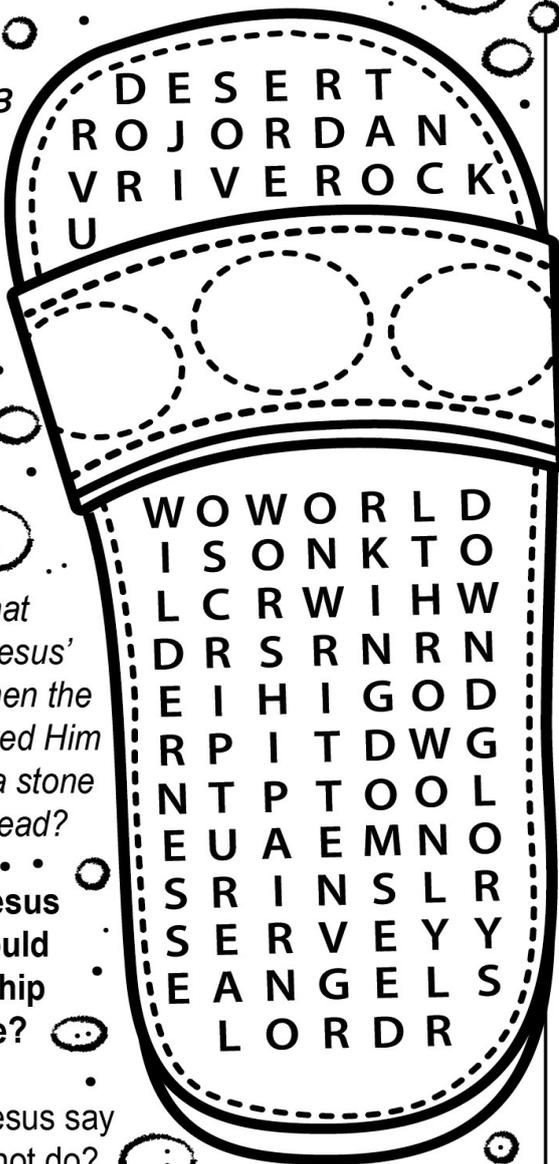
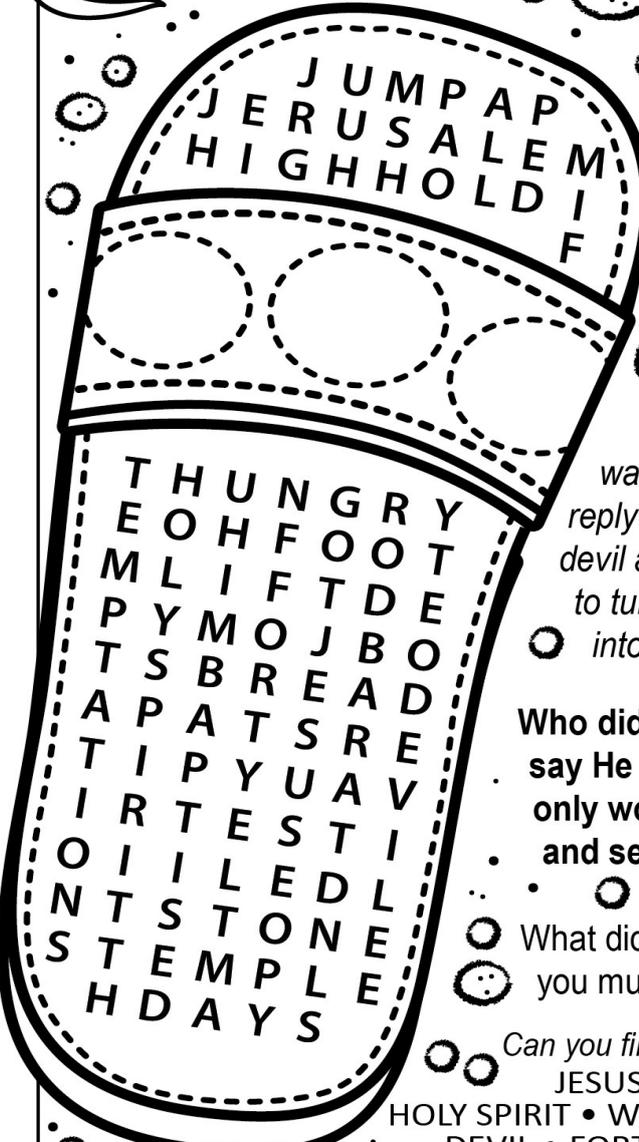
Children's Page



After **Jesus** was baptised He was led by the Spirit into the **wilderness** for **forty days** where he was tempted by the devil.

READ the story in **Luke 4:1-13**

Mouse Makes



What was Jesus' reply when the devil asked Him to turn a stone into bread?

Who did Jesus say He would only worship and serve?

What did Jesus say you must not do?

Can you find these words in the word search?

- JESUS
- BAPTISED
- RIVER
- JORDAN
- LED
- HOLY SPIRIT
- WILDERNESS
- DESERT
- TEMPTATIONS
- DEVIL
- FORTY
- DAYS
- HUNGRY
- ROCK
- STONE
- BREAD
- WRITTEN
- SCRIPTURE
- ALL
- KINGDOMS
- WORLD
- GLORY
- WORSHIP
- SERVE
- GOD
- ONLY
- JERUSALEM
- TEMPLE
- HIGH
- IF
- SON
- JUMP
- THROW
- DOWN
- ANGELS
- HOLD
- LIFT
- FOOT
- LORD
- TEST

Saturday Coffee Rota

1 Feb	Cubs		
8 Feb	Pam Addis	Pat Gothard	Muriel Stock
15 Feb	Sue Brand	Pattie Paper	Carol Green
22 Feb	Many Haines	Heather Stainer	Evelyn Charlton
29 Feb	Margaret Sida	Laura Davies	Mavis Jones
7 Mar	Pam Addis	Jacquie Chapman	Mike Addis



Sunday Coffee Rota

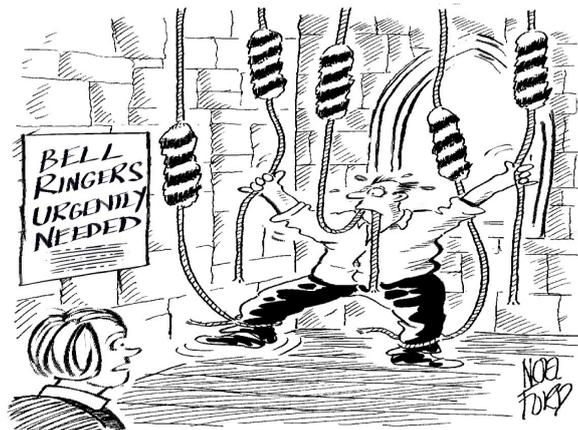
9Feb	Susan Neville	Brenda Mole
16 Feb	Eileen Pullin	Heather Stainer
23 Feb	Pam Addis	Mandy Haines

Flower Rota



	WW 1	Communion	WWW 2
2 Feb	Heather & Evelyn	-	Heather & Evelyn
9 Feb	Brenda Mole	Brenda Mole	Brenda Mole
16 Feb	Mandy Haines	Mandy Haines	Mandy Haines
23 Feb	Sonia Gould	Sonia Gould	Sonia Gould
1 Mar	Heather & Evelyn	-	Heather & Evelyn

3	5	9	6	4	1	8	7	2
1	2	4	8	7	9	5	6	3
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7	8	2	9	6	5	4	3	1
5	9	3	1	8	7	2	4	6
2	6	7	4	5	3	1	8	9
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"Ready when you are, George..."

O	H	I	E	O	O	A						
C	R	O	S	S	E	X	A	M	I	N	E	D
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Diary February

Sat 1	9.30am	Morning Prayers – Chapel
	10.00am	Coffee Morning – Cubs
Sun 2	9.30am	Morning Worship inc Communion – Revd Ann Woodhurst
Thurs 6	11.30am	Service at Freshfields
	1.00pm	Trinity Leisure Club
Sat 8	9.30am	Morning Prayers – Chapel
	10.00am	Coffee Morning – Group C
	10.00am	Jewellery Sale
Sun 9	9.30am	Parade Service – Suzanne Pearson
Thurs 13	1.00pm	Trinity Leisure Club
Sat 15	9.30am	Morning Prayers – Chapel
	10.00am	Coffee Morning – Group D
Sun 16	9.30am	Morning Worship Revd Ann Woodhurst
	11.45am	Charity Lunch followed by presentation from Hope4Havering
Wed 19	6.00pm	Messenger deadline
Thurs 20	1.00pm	Trinity Leisure Club
Sat 22	9.30am	Morning Prayers – Chapel
	10am	Coffee Morning – Group A
Sun 23	9.30am	Morning Worship – Ann Jarrett
Thurs 27	1.00pm	Trinity Leisure Club
Sat 29	9.30am	Morning Prayers – Chapel
	10am	Coffee Morning – Group A
March		
Sun 1	9.30am	Morning Worship inc Communion – Revd Ann Woodhurst
Sat 7	9.30am	Morning Prayers – Chapel
	10.00am	Coffee Morning – Group C

Trinity United Reformed Church
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 Treasurer: 450014
 Hall Secretary: 226492
 Magazine Circulation: 226492
 Magazine Editor: 220460
 Church Telephone No: 220129

Heath & Havering Group Web Site: www.heathandhaveringurc.co.uk

Worship**Sunday Morning Worship 9.30am**

Holy Communion 1st Sunday in month

All-age Worship and Parade (term time) 2nd Sunday in month

Young Church 3rd Sunday in month

Saturday Morning Prayers—in the Chapel 9.30am

Weekly Programme

Monday	Beavers	6pm
	Explorer Scout Unit (as arranged)	7.30pm
Tuesday	Cubs	6.30pm
Wednesday	Badminton Club	8pm
Thursday	Trinity Leisure Club TLC	1pm
	Rainbows	5.30pm
	Brownies	5.45pm
	Guides	7.30pm
Friday	Parent & Toddler Group	9.30am
	Scouts at Methodist	7.15pm
Saturday	Coffee Morning	10 am