



May

2018

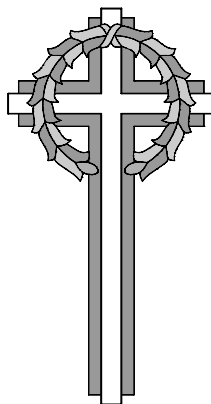
CONTACT

*The monthly magazine of
Bath Central United Reformed Church—30p*

The Day of Pentecost

(Acts 2)

*From prophecy to fulfilment,
from fear to courage,
from confusion to conviction,
from despair to certain hope,
from head to heart,
from longing to knowing,
from weakness to strength,
from paralysis to power.*



*What a difference a day makes -
The Day of Pentecost
when the Spirit came
and everything was different and possible...*

by Daphne Kitching



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The date for contributions for the next CONTACT is
15th May. It will be published on the **27th May.**



Lectionary Reading

May 6 – Easter 6: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98;

1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 13 – Easter 7: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1;

1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 20 – Pentecost: Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14;

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27;

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 27 – Trinity Sunday: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29;

Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Note: These are the Revised Common Lectionary Bible passages
as published in the URC Prayer Handbook

Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

When one reads an Agatha Christie novel one encounters hushed references to 'very wealthy men' or 'exceptionally rich heiresses'. One such encounter follows this pattern: 'Your father is very rich? A millionaire?' she said in a deep husky voice. 'Yes', he replied in a languid manner, 'very rich, a millionaire several times over ...'

In the 1950's to be a millionaire meant something. It was a description of the ultra-wealthy. After all, these were times when an average family house could be bought for £1,891.

Scroll forward to 2018. Read another book – 'Fire and Fury' by Michael Wolff. This book is a commentary on the early days of the Donald Trump Presidency. Here Trump is contextualised in a number of ways one of which is his personal wealth. Today 'a very wealthy man' is a Billionaire. For example Bill Gates (founder of Microsoft) has a personal fortune of \$89 billion dollars. Trump is described as 'barely a billionaire' as his personal fortune is only \$3 billion. He is scorned by 'really rich men and women'.

So to my personal wealth. One day when travelling in southern Africa I made my fortune. In a quick transaction on the border between two nations I became, not a millionaire, or a billionaire, but a dollar Trillionaire! My personal fortune stood at \$50,000 000 000 000 ...

Amazing! So why am I still working for a ministers stipend? The reason my friends is this ... the dollars in question are not, alas,

⇒ US dollars, but rather are Zimbabwean ones. So my Fifty Trillion Dollar 'fortune' is worth nothing more than framing and posting on my office wall as a quaint memento.

Thankfully there are many ways of measuring wealth. In an episode of the 'Simpsons' we find the action taking place at a funeral parlour. The clergyman starts up – 'She was rich!' At this the congregation perk up. 'Not in money, but in the things that really matter. Love of family and friends. Love of her community. Her generosity and kindness. Her love of God ...' By this juncture the entire congregation have 'sloped-off' and are heard off screen muttering to themselves that it is not worth waiting to hear the 'will read'.

Thankfully this fictitious clergyman got it right. The things of real value that make a man, or woman, rich are such as he spoke of and not a financial-figure.

After all did not Jesus point out that, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Luke 16:13)

All of which reminds us of whom we serve ... and why.

David



Foodbank

Please note that from next month, following a suggestion from church members, a collection plate will be placed next to the Foodbank box for those who wish to give a financial donation rather than Food. The money collected will be given to Foodbank every 6 months to help with their general expenses.

Thank you for all your support.

Mildred McArthur

To Mark World Peace Day

You are invited to **Imagine Peace** through painting, sketching, photography, poetry, découpage, flowers ...

All the items submitted to Imagine Peace will be displayed on World Peace Day, Friday 21st September 2018, in the sanctuary of Bath Central United Reformed Church.

The display will be assembled on Thursday, 20th and will remain in place till Tuesday, 25th. The church will be open to the public during this time.

For further information, and/or, if you would like to place an exhibit about Imagine Peace please contact Revd Helen by email or phone: urcministryteambath@btinternet.com or 01225 310050



Church Bells will still Ring Out

Planning policy is finally coming to the aid of church bells. No longer will people who move into areas with 'noisy' church bells be able to complain and have them shut down.

As the Secretary of State for Housing, Sajid Javid, recently said, *'Churches have been part of British life in towns and villages for centuries. Their bells should not be silenced by new housing going up, which is why planning policy will be strengthened to ensure it will be up to developers building new properties nearby to identify and tackle noise problems.'*

And so it is that under the new guidance, it will be up to developers to soundproof the homes they build near churches with bells, music venues, and community and sports clubs.

The Church of England has welcomed the decision, pointing out that bell-ringing has been part of Christian worship for more than 1000 years.

From Parish Pump

Christian Aid Week 13th to 19th May 2018

Last year Christian Aid featured the work it does with some of the millions of refugees in the world. This year their publicity is concentrating on the devastating effects that natural disasters have on the poor and vulnerable. Christian Aid works in 39 countries, in most of which the population suffers on a regular basis as the seasons bring hurricanes or monsoons—or in other cases bring no rain at all. Which is worse? Because of climate change the effects seem to be worsening every year—which means that the need is not just for emergency help (for which all the big agencies combine through the Disasters Emergency Committee) but for help with long term sustainable projects.

Which is where Christian Aid and Marcelin come in this year. Marcelin and his three teenage daughters live in Haiti and are survivors of storm Matthew which destroyed so much of the infra structure and homes on the island. One year on and they are having to exist in a 2m by 2m concrete block to avoid it being blown away. We are being asked to contribute towards the building costs of a safe disaster-resistant home for Marcelin's family and thousands like them before the next hurricane arrives. They are survivors and are determined to rebuild their lives, but need us to be "in their corner" with them, helping them to help themselves. Christian Aid has been working with local partners there since the 1980s.

Money raised this year will of course also go to Christian Aid's ongoing commitments—the web site pie chart indicates how their income is distributed. The very comprehensive direct feedback we receive every month about our Commitment for Life partners shows that the money is well used and accounted for by our trusted locals: campaigning, advocacy and education.

As usual I am making my annual appeal for help with collecting! A few of us still dare to go knocking on doors —“for positively the last time”! – and just hope that they will not be slammed in



⇒ our face. We did so well last year, but if you can think of another (legal!) way to raise nearly £2,000, please say. Hazel is continuing to make and sell her lovely cards so please support her on Sundays and coffee mornings. On Saturday, May 19th Janet and I will have a stall on the church steps where we will collect from passers-by and sell Traidcraft and perhaps some other items (cakes, pickles, jam, etc). I will have a light lunch on my patio for neighbours and yourselves on Thursday, 17th (sorry, there are steps.) Look out for a “Big Brekkie” in your area.

If no one collects in your road or you are out when they call, please feel free to contribute to our Church Appeal. The special red envelopes will be available each Sunday. Thank you.

Sunday, 13th May ..Week begins. House to House until Saturday, 19th.

Tuesday, 15th May ..Pause for Church meeting at 2.30pm.

Cup of tea and cake.

Thursday, 17th May Lunch on Jenny’s patio, 54 Greenway Lane

12pm-2pm. Please ask me for a lift.

Saturday, 19th May Event on steps. Help appreciated: 11am onwards.

Monday, 21st May ..Help count at church: 10am

Jenny Stephens



General Assembly

General Assembly is the biennial assembly of the United Reformed Church, meeting every two years to celebrate, discuss, and make decisions on, the life and work of the denomination.

General Assembly will next meet in East Midlands Synod at The Albert Hall, Nottingham, from 6 to 9 July 2018.



As good as it gets

*A shipwrecked man spent five years on a deserted island. One day he was overjoyed to see a ship drop anchor in the bay. A dinghy approached, and a ship's officer handed the sailor *The Times*, *The Financial Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. "The captain suggests," said the officer, "that you read what's going on in the world before you decide if you wish to be rescued."*

Transforming Faith, Transforming Life

A thanksgiving service for Training for Learning and Serving (TLS) at The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham on 23rd June 2018. Worship will begin at 11.30am.

Preacher: Revd John Proctor, URC General Secretary Drinks will be available from 10.30 a.m. and a buffet lunch will be served from 1.00pm.

The event is free and no tickets are required but it will be helpful for catering numbers if you could indicate your intention to attend by e-mail to:

stanley.jackson@urc.org.uk by Friday 1st June 2018

Israel an Independent State

Israel became an independent state 70 years ago on 14th May 1948 as the British mandate in Palestine finally came to an end.

The very next day Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Syria invaded Palestine, and a 13-month war began. The Arabs and Jews had been in tension with each other and the British ever since the 1917 Balfour Declaration and the 1920 creation of the British Mandate of Palestine.

The war had consequences that the Arabs had not foreseen, for Israel defeated both the Arab armies and the Palestinian militias, and in the process created 700,000 Palestinian refugees.

The UN partition, which the Palestinians had rejected, had promised 56% of British Palestine to the Jewish state. By the end of the war, Israel possessed 77%. She had everything but the West Bank and eastern quarter of Jerusalem (controlled by Jordan), and the Gaza Strip (controlled by Egypt).

It all meant that Israel now had a state, but not the Palestinians. The problem is still a bone of contention. Today, the West Bank is nominally controlled by the Palestinian Authority and is under Israeli occupation. Gaza is controlled by Hamas, an Islamist fundamentalist party, and is under Israeli blockade, but not occupied by ground troops.

Tim Lenton in Parish Pump

My sincere thanks for all the care and concern shown to me these past couple of months when I had the surgery on my hip. All went well and I am now well on the way to normal health. All the cards, phone calls and visits have played a large part in my recovery, and I hope to be back amongst you all very soon.

Morfydd

Jean and Julian wish to thank their many friends at Central who have been so kind with their good wishes, visits, cards, flowers and phone calls during the past year. We are sorry we have not found it possible to come to services and we do miss what has been a life time of church attendance.

Church House honours civil rights leader's legacy

On 5 April 1968, Britain awoke to the shocking news of the Revd Dr Martin Luther King's assassination. Fifty years later, staff at the United Reformed Church's London office joined the thousands worldwide in commemorating the eminent civil rights leader's life, in the wake of the anniversary of his untimely death.

The Revd John Proctor, General Secretary for the URC, led a commemoration service. He said: *"The values that Martin Luther King promoted are shared not only with the URC but very much among people of different faith traditions, and none, across the world. Dr King's courage and influence are quite outstanding as a figure in recent history. He is someone who is worthy to be honoured by people from many different people backgrounds and nations."*

From URC News

With Trinity Sunday in mind...

The divine nature is really and entirely identical with each of the three persons, all of whom can therefore be called one. 'I and the Father are one'.

St Thomas Aquinas

Preaching at Rush Hill and Larkhall			
	Rush Hill 10.30am	Larkhall 11.00am	Larkhall 6.30pm
May 6	Mrs Margaret White	Revd David Pattie	Revd Sue Henderson
May 13	Mr Peter Rouse	Revd Dr Hazel Starritt	Choir
May 20	Revd David Pattie	Revd Helen Pattie	Revd Dr Hazel Starritt
May 27	Revd Dr Hazel Starritt	Mr Paul Swift	Gideons

Church Diary – May

- Every Friday* 10.30am Friday Coffee in the Argyle Hall.
- Tuesday 1st* 2.30pm Women's Guild: Sam Packer –
Youth for Christ in South Africa
- Sunday 6th** 10.30am Communion Service: *Revd Helen Pattie*
Foodbank & Traidcraft
- Tuesday 8th* 2.30pm Elders' Meeting
- Wednesday 9th-Saturday 12th* Argyle Players: 'Murder on the Nile'
- Sunday 13th** **Christian Aid Week Starts**
10.30am Family Worship: *Mr Peter Walker*
- Tuesday 15th* 2.30pm Church Meeting
- Thursday 17th* Christian Aid lunch - Jenny's patio
- Saturday 19th* Christian Aid on church steps
- Sunday 20th** 10.30am Family Worship: *Revd Helen Pattie*
Preacher: *The Moderator, Revd Ruth*
Whitehead
- Tuesday 22nd* 2.30pm Men's Fellowship: Francis Buck –
From Sonar to Baby Scans
- Sunday 27th** 10.30am Family Worship: *Revd David Pattie*

June

- Sunday 3rd** 10.30am Communion Service: *Revd David Pattie*
Foodbank & Traidcraft
- Tuesday 5th* 2.30pm Women's Guild: Cream Tea with entertainer
Open Meeting
- Wednesday 6th* Woodside
- Sunday 10th** 10.30am Family Worship: *Revd Sue Henderson*
- Tuesday 12th* 2.30pm Elders' Meeting

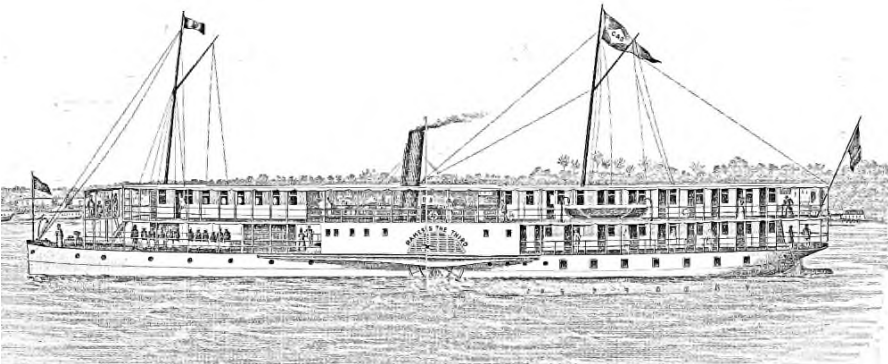


1954 – The Argyle Players



For any theatre group the a major object of existence is to fill the chosen auditorium with a very appreciative audience. One way to achieve this lies in the careful selection of what is to be staged. Clever groups will infiltrate the English Departments of local schools to discover what are the set books for GCSE or A level examinations before choosing the production. Presenting something from Shakespeare, Shaw, Chekhov or other classic writers approved by the exam setting committees almost guarantees full houses of students eager to grasp the finer points which they could use to gain those extra few marks on their papers. For other drama groups, anxious to put bums on seats choosing a play by a well known author usually will bring results.

So if a farce is what is called for the producer need look no further than Ben Travers or Ray and Michael Cooney. Alan Ayckbourn's name is so well known that almost any of his comedies will draw in the crowds to watch his somewhat perverse humour. For productions of a more serious nature, Rattigan or Pinter will probably draw in the crowds.



Argyle String Orchestra



Summer concert on **Thursday, 21st June.**

Haydn Symphonies numbers 46 and 47.

Haydn Cello Concerto number 2.

Janacek movements from Idyla.



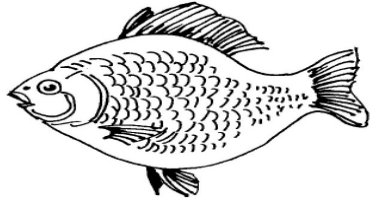
⇒ However, if a good thriller or murder mystery is to be the choice, there is no better name to put above the theatre than that of Agatha Christie. Such is the popularity of her works that, even if audience members have seen the tale performed several times, and therefore know the story, and who did the foul deed, this does not hold them back from another viewing. Perhaps it is because Dame Agatha's plots are so devious and cunning that it takes more than one attempt to unravel the last page denouement. Therefore it is with the advantages of the Agatha Christie name on the publicity that The Argyle Players trust they will have the 'House Full' signs in place as they present one of the most intriguing of the Christie output with '*Murder on the Nile*'.

This Brian Hudd production takes to the stage in the Tovey Hall from Wednesday to Saturday, 9th-12 May each evening at 7.30pm. You can be part of the audience by purchasing your tickets now from the sales desk in the Argyle Hall after morning worship, or from the city Visitor Information Centre at 2, Terrace Walk, next to the Huntsman Inn on Grand Parade. You can ask for tickets to be left at the door on performance nights by calling Helen Brettell on Bath 423866. Don't miss an evening of mystery and murder!

Michael Burgess

A Fish's Life

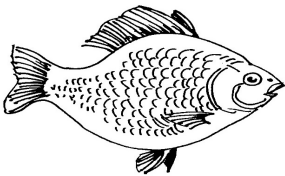
A tank of fishes tropical
In my doctor's waiting room
Starts conversations topical
As folk's appointments loom.



'Those fish - their life's agreeable,'
Muses Bert (he's got a cold),
'They're warm, they're clean, they're comfortable,
'They've all struck piscine gold!'
'You're right, they want for nothing,'
Says backache sufferer Bill,
'They've fish food for the stuffing,
'And they are never ill!'

Poor Sid, his problem's snoring,
(His wife can't bear the sound),
Says 'Surely it is boring,
'Just swimming round and round?'

Sniffs Bert, 'I fear you're wrong,
'I hope you will forgive,
'You see, their memory's not that long,
'In fact, it's like a sieve!'



Then a goldfish, name of Eric,
Shed a watery little tear,
And said to his friend Derek,
'That's Bert's sixth visit here.'

By Nigel Beeton
From Parish Pump

You asked for it

The student, when asked by the teacher to write an essay on 'The Effects of Laziness', turned in a blank sheet of paper.

The following is the collective prayer for this month. We ask you to join us in prayer on the **third Wednesday** of the month—18th April. We shall pray at 7.30am and/or 7.30pm: please join us.

A Prayer for May

Dear Father God,

We pray for the Elders and Pastoral visitors as they start a new year of service to the community here at Central.

May the congregation also spread friendship and support amongst those they meet at worship on Sunday mornings.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen



Last Months Crossword

Across: 1 Womb 3 Agnostic 9 Long ago 10 Fleet
11 Horeb 12 Yellow 14 Deceitfulness 17 Banish
19 Towel 22 Boils 23 Inferno 24 Eternity 25 Defy

Down: 1 Will hide 2 Minor 4 Glory of Christ
5 Offal 6 The Robe 7 City 8 Zabbai 13 Psalmody
15 Chalice 16 Let off 18 If son 20 Worse 21 Able

Prayers



Each week we pray for:

6th May

The printing teams for the order of service and Contact.

From those who use our halls: Alcoholics Anonymous.

13th May

George Gove, who has responsibility for security and fire extinguishers.

From those who use our halls: Argyle String Orchestra.

20th May

Sound and recording teams and the organiser, George Gove.

From Churches Together in Bath: Manvers St. Baptist Church.

27nd May

Stewards' co-ordinator, Maurice Liles, and the Stewards.

From those who use our halls: Pulteney Art Group.



Intercessory Prayer Chain

*If any reader of CONTACT needs someone to pray for them, Central URC has a prayer chain in operation. Each matter for prayer will be treated in the strictest confidence. If you would like prayer please ask your elder or contact **Peter Rouse** (☎01225 332760).*



“Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting, ‘So far, so good...?’”

Sudoku Each row, column and 3x3 block should contain all numbers 1 to 9

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

St James the Least of All *by the Rev Dr Gary Bowness*

On church towers, rock cakes, scaffolding and the merits of confirming bats

The elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...

My dear Nephew Darren

We are finally about to start repairing our medieval church tower. Would that we still paid medieval prices for having it done; there would be a degree of satisfaction in giving the builders a hogshead of ale and 10 sheep once the work was completed. I would even be prepared to throw in an Indulgence, sparing them 100 days in purgatory (the architect probably claiming 15% of them for himself).

After several endless jumble sales, coffee mornings – where we were obliged to eat Mrs Jarvis’s rock cakes (many of us would have been happier to make a substantial donation to the fund provided we didn’t have to eat them) – sponsored events (Mr Peat has yet to return, five years late, from his sponsored cycle ride across the Sahara – but fortunately, we had his sponsor money collected before he departed) and a substantial loan from the bank that makes the National Debt seem trivial (and has the same probability of being repaid), we are now able to begin. The only sponsored event I regretted not having was paying to have Lady Trotter remain silent for a month. Even sponsoring her to keep quiet for half an hour would have been pleasant.

We received a substantial donation from a local manufacturer. It was suggested that as a sign of appreciation we advertise their products from the top of the tower – until it was gently pointed out that they produce nuclear warheads. I would have had no

objection; knowing that council members possessed tactical nuclear weapons would make discussion at meetings rather brisker.

Scaffolding has now been erected around the tower, with the first 20 feet covered in sheet metal in order to stop the Young Farmers, after refreshing themselves at their Tuesday meetings in the pub, from trying to see who could be the first to reach the top. Personally, I suspect it is to stop the more athletic members of the Ladies’ Guild from attempting the same feat. 80-year-olds these days can have fearsome energy and determination.

Fulfilling current safety regulations, there is now a security cordon around the tower of approximately 10 square miles. “Lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone”? These days, a dashed foot would involve court proceedings and damages of several million pounds.

Inside the church, the organ has had to be covered in polythene sheeting in order to protect it. Parish relations were somewhat strained last week when our deputy organist, Mrs Ffrench, while playing for Evensong, overheard me refer to the large bag on the organ and got quite the wrong impression.

The greatest inconvenience will be caused to our population of bats, but if it dissuades them from flying into church so much the better. The only other possibility is to get them all confirmed; we will then never see them inside church again.

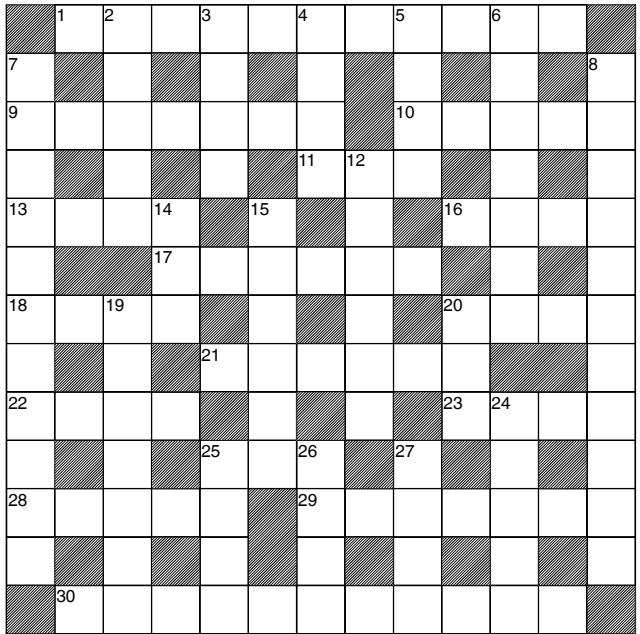
Your loving uncle, Eustace

Crossword

From Parish Pump

Across

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11) –
- 9 ‘The – are mantled with corn’ (Psalm 65:13) (7)
- 10 ‘Each man – a sword to his side’ (Exodus 32:27) (5)
- 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from – to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
- 13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)
- 16 ‘Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought – – and doesn’t do it, sins’ (James 4:17) (2,2)
- 17 Stir up or provoke (Acts 13:50) (6)
- 18 Burden (Luke 11:46) (4)
- 20 ‘As far as the east is from the – , so far has he removed our transgressions from us’ (Psalm 103:12) (4)
- 21 Sign (Luke 23:38) (6)
- 22 ‘After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to – his disciples’ feet’ (John 13:5) (4)
- 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh’s dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
- 25 Has (anag.) (3)
- 28 ‘This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, – – sons’ (Genesis 10:1) (5)
- 29 ‘I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for – and – awake’ (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
- 30 Paul said of him, ‘he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains’ (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)



Down

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
- 3 ‘A bruised – he will not break’ (Matthew 12:20) (4)
- 4 ‘Suddenly a great company of the heavenly – appeared with the angel’ (Luke 2:13) (4)
- 5 Slip (anag.) (4)
- 6 ‘Take an awl and push it through his – – into the door, and he will become your servant for life’ (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
- 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
- 8 ‘Therefore, as we have — , let us do good to all people’ (Galatians 6:10) (11)
- 12 Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6)
- 14 Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)
- 15 ‘He...became obedient to death, even death on – – !’ (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
- 19 Refrain (1 Peter 2:11) (7)
- 20 ‘She began to – his feet with her tears’ (Luke 7:38) (3)
- 24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)
- 25 ‘Give to everyone who – you’ (Luke 6:30) (4)
- 26 ‘I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my – come from?’ (Psalm 121:1) (4)
- 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

Activities

Sunday Worship: 10.30am Family Worship for all ages.

Church Meeting: Third Tuesday of alternate months at 2.30pm (*Jan on*)

Elders' Meeting: Second Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm

Women's Guild: Secretary: Mrs Gillian Swift

First Tuesday each month at 2.30pm

Men's Fellowship: Programme Secretary: Mr John Osborne

Fourth Tuesday each month at 2.30pm

Allsorts Group: Contact: Mr Paul Swift

Third Saturday each month

Argyle Players: Secretary: Mrs Helen Brettell

Thursdays at 7.30pm

Argyle String Orchestra: Church Contact: Martin Cawte

Thursdays at 7.30pm

Committees

Buildings: *Convener*; Mr MHH Burgess: *Secretary*; Mr RM Short

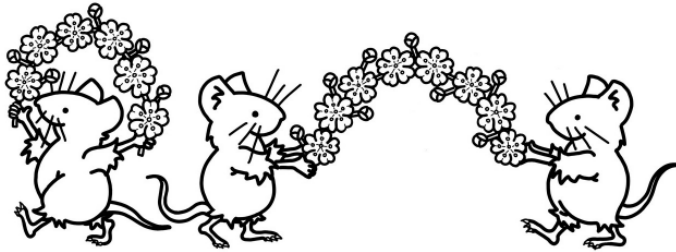
House: .. *Convener*; Mrs Sheena Carter *Secretary*; Mrs Angela Campbell

Finance: .. *Convener*; Mr RB Turner: *Secretary*; Mr WE Richardson

*Copy in most formats is acceptable, from manuscript to email
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