



The Messenger

November & December 2025

News

Recipe

Quizzes

Events



Contents

Editorial	3
From The Pastor's Desk	4
Church Family News	5
Birthdays	5
Family News	
Once Upon A Time	5
Rob and Katherine Weedon Wedding	9
Ant, Jenny and William Weedon	10
Remembering Nancy Gladstone	11
Shirley Soulsby	15
Connect Safari Meal	19
Christmas at GBC	20
Coffee Stop	21
The Catalyst Centre	22
Gaskin's Christmas Lunch 2025	23
Life Issues - Boundaries	24
A Gift For Someone You Will Never Meet – Toy Service	25
Codeword – H P T	26
Events – Conservatoire Concerts	27
Woolly Blessings	28
Prayers	29
GBC Christmas Postbox – Supporting Trinity Trust Team	31
Trinity Trust Team Newsletter	32
Book Reviews	35
Peace Is A Rose	36
Poem From 'Prayers of Life'	37
Christmas Quiz	39
Recipe - Cherochet Apple Crumble	41
Harvest	42
Christmas Quiz Answers	44
Thoughts	45
Christmas Cards	45
Is God Enough?	46
Hard Days	47
Contact Us	48

From the Editorial Team

How quickly the time flies and yet again, it is MY turn to write the Editorial Comment for The Messenger. I am reading *The Gospel of John Volume 1 by William Barclay* and as a 'new', (NOT mature), Christian one sentence (among many) has already stood out for me :

*A drunken reprobate was taunted by his friends upon becoming a Christian and asked him whether he really believed that Jesus turned water into wine. He replied, 'I don't know if Jesus did turn water into wine, but I **DO** know in my house, he turned beer into furniture'.*

The argument FOR Christianity is the Christian life - No one can disregard a faith which is able to make bad people good.

Here endeth the Sermon. God bless you all.

On reading the OT Testament to a little girl she was horrified by all the bloodthirsty battles but very profoundly, in one so young, she stated:

"But that was BEFORE God was a Christian"

The editorial team reserve the right to reject any articles that may not be suitable. Only first names will be used, respecting privacy at all times. All photos submitted must have prior consent from those shown in the picture.

Our Pastors, Jack and Peter, will approve all editions prior to distribution.

The Editorial Team are:

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Items for the January/February 2026 edition should be sent to one of the above by Sunday 14th December, for distribution on Sunday, 11th January 2026

Thank you

From The Pastor's Desk



I thought I would do something different and give you an interesting Christmas story that many (if not all of us) may not be aware. Love him, hate him, confused about him or not particularly bothered by him; many Christians have some kind of view about St Nicholas. However, there is a fun story (that many argue is fact) that is worth remembering this Christmas.

The year was 325 AD. Over 300 Bishops had gathered in Nicaea for the first ecumenical council. The reason why? To debate the Holy Trinity. It was time to silence opposition and bring a unity to the Church in regards to who Jesus was. One man stood up and took to the stand, his name was Arius. He forcefully argued, at length, that Jesus was not equal to God the Father.

Whilst many listened respectfully, St Nicholas could no longer control himself. In view of everyone, he walked over to Arius, then slapped him in the face, telling everyone how untrue and dangerous this was. In disbelief, the other Bishops had St Nicholas escorted out, thrown in jail and stripped of his clothes; whilst they discussed what consequences he should face. He was deeply upset and regretted his actions (although not his stance); but would eventually be released and reinstated as the bishop of Myra.

The influence of others as well as that of St Nicholas' were agreed upon, causing them to reject Arius' ideas and to form the Apostles creed many Christians still recite. What are you saying Jack? Don't panic, I'm not suggesting we go around reacting in the same way St Nicholas did! Instead I am suggesting something different but nonetheless just as powerful. Sometimes it's hard to stand up for something you believe in when you are not sure what the consequences could be. I am reminded of a sermon I delivered in August in regards to Mark 6:45-52. In this we see three significant things, you are never out of God's sight, His reach or His care. This should give us courage and peace when we are called to walk on the waters of the storms of life and a boldness to stand for truth. It's easy to avoid answering a phone call if we don't recognise the number. However, Christmas is coming, God is calling and you know His number, answer the call!!!

Jack



St Nicolas of Myra

Church Family News

Birthdays

November



6th - Barbara J
7th - Pete L
9th - Penny C
10th - Carole G-W
12th - Carol R
16th - Hazel T
17th - Sokhon H
19th - June R
20th - Jono C
20th - Jan P
23rd - Margaret S
26th - Pete B
30th - Andy R

December

2nd - James V
3rd - Milly B
8th - John R
10th - Sarah L
15th - Elizabeth P



If you have a birthday in January or February and are happy for us to put it in the Messenger, please let Sally know.

Once Upon a Time

Once upon a time there was a sweet five year old girl who gave out the sugar-knobs at the tea after the Saturday evening Youth Services at Standford Iron Room (so called as it was largely made of corrugated iron). At that same time an eleven-year-old lad had passed his eleven plus and was given a bicycle as a reward, or was it so that his parents would not have to pay the bus fare to Petersfield? His parents also bought their first television, a 9-inch black and white Bush. The lad was annoyed that when the king died on February the sixth 1952, as programmes were cancelled and solemn music played - what no Muffin the Mule or Crackerjack! He did though decide that it was time he made his parents' faith his own. The bike also meant that he was able to cycle the 7 or so miles from Liss to Standford once a month for their Youth Rallies and enjoy sugar-knobs in his tea at the end. That was how Barbara and I first met. Both our families were in the Christian Brethren Assemblies me at Liss, at the Central Hall, and Barbara at Standford. Our parents, and large families, had grown up in the Assemblies and knew each other from frequent joint meetings.

When I was 18 I had done several years on the Christmas Post and when one of the regular postmen fell ill I was asked to do his half round. I was also leading the Youth group at Church and running the Sunday School so I took a year out between A levels and Uni. also wanting to improve one of my grades. I was looking around for somewhere I could do some Maths teaching. Barbara was at a Youth rally at Liss and told me that Stephen Hedges who had been, like me, a prefect at Churchers College was at her school as a student-teacher and that the Headmaster was the father of the Head-Boy at Churchers when Stephen and I were prefects. So, I landed up in the same school as Barbara - fortunately she was not in one of the classes I taught regularly but when I did have to do an RE class in which she was I knew there was someone who would know the answer to any question I might ask. There was one incident in a science class which she reminds me of regularly when I blew up a test-tube. No one knew that we knew each other. Occasionally we would meet at the bus stop, her with her mother on the way home to Whitehill and me to Liss - sometimes I might get to share a sweet. When we got engaged several years later we went back to the school and somewhat surprised the staff who were still there!

I went off to Sheffield the next year to study Maths and also developed an interest in Geology and switched to a Joint Degree. My Mum wrote weekly letters full of gossip, I mean news, of what was going on and I was informed that there were some trying to pair up Barbara with my brother - I was not too pleased and fortunately he was not interested. Another such letter informed me that Barbara had palled up with a farmer's son from another Assembly. I, again, was not too pleased even though I had a girl-friend of my own. That was not going anywhere as it was quite clear that if we did marry I could live anywhere in the world as long as it was within three miles of Sheffield. We drifted apart and she eventually broke it off having eyes for a handsome fellow just up the road.

In my final year at Sheffield I came home and there was a travelling Evangelist holding a series of Meetings in a large marquee (not quite a Billy Graham event). I went one evening and there was Barbara with said farmer's son - I don't think she even knew I was there. I couldn't imagine Barbara driving a tractor and she's my Barbara for goodness-sake. Back in Sheffield Mum's letters continued to arrive and just before the end of the Christmas term she informed me that Barbara had broken up with her farmer boy-friend. I was on cloud-nine walking about, it felt like, 6-inches above the pavement as I walked to my first lecture - planning to arrange a date with my cousin who was going out with her brother. So, we went as a foursome to the Christmas rally at Manor Road Gospel Hall, Guildford with Barbara

and me in the back of her father's Austin van. Our hands met and have stayed together for the past 60 years plus.



On Christmas Day 1964 we got engaged. Around about Easter time the Headmaster at King Edward's School, Witley informed me that there was a staff residence available in the summer if we wanted to get married in the holidays but didn't know when the next time one would be available, which was I think was his way of telling me I had passed my first year's trial.

So, he was responsible for me marrying Barbara at 18. We were married at Liss Central Hall on 14th August 1965. We spent the first night at our new home. We went into Guildford in the evening to then Chinese Restaurant by Guildford castle. It is now The March Hare and we try to go back there for Anniversaries ending in a 5 or 0. Next morning we set off for Ostend for our Honeymoon, 27 each half-board for a fortnight. Term started shortly after the honeymoon when a young people's group was scheduled to come to school to take the CU meeting the first Sunday evening. "Can you do tea for them, darling?" and so began many a meal for school and church. We switched from Brethren Assemblies to Baptists when I was teaching at the Alliance High School in Kenya in 1970. And the rest is history. I thank God that I have known Barbara for some 80 years and have shared



the past 60 years together with her and for the family that has resulted from our marriage.

Eric



Rob And Katherine Weedon

2 August 2025



Rob and Katherine's wedding was so beautiful. A packed church at St Saviour's in Guildford welcomed first two little flower girls, followed by eight bridesmaids dressed in emerald green, and then the Bride (who looked absolutely stunning!) and her Father. The service was very special in so many ways. Both sets of parents were involved in uniting their families together as they gave their son/daughter to each other. Both Mums were asked to give a Bible reading. Four couples (including David and Ruth) were asked to lay hands on Rob and Katherine with one person from each couple praying for them; David had the privilege of praying. Katherine's uncle gave an excellent address.

Rob and Katherine left the church in the Weedon campervan which had been duly decorated all round with emerald green and ivory ribbons, bows and flowers. The Reception was held in a marquee in the grounds of Waverley Abbey, followed by a Ceilidh. Both Rob and Katherine gave very moving speeches, talking freely about their faith and love for the Lord in front of many non-Christian work colleagues, as well as friends and family.

Guests were invited to form a long tunnel with lit sparklers to send Rob and Katherine off on their honeymoon to The Azores. This was, from start to finish, the most Christ-centred wedding/reception we have ever been to – a real joy, and we give thanks to God for so many answered prayers for our children.

More Weedon Family News!



Ant and Jenny Weedon
with baby William Anthony David, born 25 May 2025

Remembering Nancy Gladstone



Pam and I first met Nancy and Jim here at Godalming Baptist Church in the 1970's. We became firm friends and later made the decision to move to Farncombe Baptist Church with them.

Nancy was a real stalwart of the Playgroup both in Godalming and then Farncombe. She loved working with the 3-year-olds which included our youngest (who is now 50!) One day as we were out we saw Nancy and Jim walking home towards the

massive hill they would need to walk up to get home. We just had to stop to give them a lift otherwise our son would have been unimpressed that we would let his 'favourite Auntie' walk up the hill. Nancy had a real gift with children, always firm but loving.

As I said, Nancy and Jim became firm friends with us. They ran a lovely, loving House group and we have fond memories of those times. Nancy would always ask people how they were and took a real interest in the situation, always taking action if she could help, showing true Christian love.

We visited her many times when she was in Kings Road and she always made visitors feel welcome. Nancy was lovely to know as a friend. She is now with her beloved Jim and our Lord. Bless you Nancy.

Thanks for wonderful memories.

Richard F



Tribute To Dear Nancy

It was such a privilege to have known and visited dear Nancy at her home in Frith Hill and in King's Road over many years. When I look back at those times I think of Nancy as such a devoted wife and mother and such a committed faithful member of Godalming Baptist Church or Queen Street as she used to call the church!

Nancy had a very determined spirit, a true northern soul, who had such fond memories of her roots before she moved down south. She also had a heart of gold, especially for little children as you will hear later in the service. Her cooking was superb and she cooked faithfully for many years for Friendship Lunch and at any appeal for cakes for events Nancy would always produce a wonderful cake!

Nancy was truly devoted to her dear Jim and when I visited it was so apparent what a strong marriage they had and their love for each other. When Jim's health was failing, Nancy visited him every single day in hospital and then in the nursing home at Cranleigh, always fighting his corner to make sure he was cared for when Nancy could no longer care for him at home.

She faced dear Jim's death with such courage in her indomitable way, coping with a move to Kings Road and then finally facing her declining health and moving to the residential home.

She was always so proud of her three sons, David, John and Paul and her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Thank you for all your loving care to her, especially in her latter years. Nancy leaves a great legacy that will live on. A legacy of love and faithfulness-living a life devoted to her dear family, a loyal and true friend, a committed member here at Queen Street and a woman of such faith, despite enduring the valleys of life experiences she pressed on, now reunited with her dear Jim after a life so well-lived. Thank you Nancy for all the lives you touched and God bless you until we meet again.

Sally

Don't Know Who To Attribute This To

When I was asked if I would say a few words about Nancy, I found it difficult without thinking of Jim too and how very proud they were of their three boys, David, John and Paul.

Nancy's devotion to Jim was lovingly shown when Jim moved to the Nursing Home after his stroke. She drove to Cranleigh every day to be with him, come what may.

They both contributed so much to our fellowship here at Queen Street. One of their gifts was hospitality, when Nancy's cooking skills were enjoyed by so many of us. She also served for many years cooking for the Friendship Lunch. And, if I'm not mistaken, Paul, more than a few cakes were baked for cricketers!

Nancy and I became friends when she joined us to work in pre-school. So, on behalf of pre-school staff, many parents and children, I hope to show just a little of how much she loved working with each and every one of them.

We worked together with the youngest children, quite a challenge at times but no challenger was too great for Nancy. She had had "three boys" and years of experience!

Her cooking, sewing and knitting skills were soon put to good use. Traditional pre-school Christmas cake and mince pies. All ingredients weighed out for each group of children. All flavours sampled, mixed and stirred. Nancy would bake and marzipan it at home and bring it back to be iced. Challenging! Pastry, mincemeat, rolling pins. What fun! Nancy loved it.

With countless rhymes, songs and stories, her experience was invaluable. She knitted and sewed many toys and Christmas gifts for the children over the years, including a beautifully knitted nativity scene.

So many children, parents and pre-school 'Aunties' will have their own memories of Auntie Nancy. To those of us who work or have had the privilege of working with little children, will know how special and rewarding it can be and how very much Nancy loved being a part of it. She will be remembered by us all with much love.

Gill

SHIRLEY ANN SOULSBY
Date of Birth 12th JULY 1945

She has been a member of GBC for sixty years; thereby becoming one of the longest serving members of the Church – quite an achievement in any one's language.

Just goes to show you are never too old to serve HIM.



school called Stambridge and whilst there, she was unfortunately diagnosed with epilepsy and due to this, she had to leave home at age eleven and a half to attend a hospital school called Lingfield where she stayed till she

Shirley was born near Southend and her parents, Herbert and Grace, were 'good' people. She had one sister, Betty, and two brothers, Dennis and Peter. Dennis, who is 84, is still around, lives in Essex and is as fit as a fiddle and they get together about twice a year. As a child, she remembers nearly drowning after a seizure which must have been really scary.

She attended a primary



turned sixteen. Secondary School was a boarding school called Lingfield High School previously called "The Colony". She WAS able to come home for school holidays, and her mother tried to visit her every month. Unfortunately, her father was disabled and was unable to visit her at Lingfield. Even at a young age, it's clear to me that she had lots of compassion, understanding and sympathy for her mother's journey which involved taking a train to London and then another one to Lingfield. Twenty years later she visited her old school and one of the teachers, Mr Brookes (*who was very nice to her at school*), was still there and remembered her.

After leaving school, she moved to The Meath in Godalming as a patient not wishing to return to Essex; having left there many years ago. She was then offered the chance to work for the Salvation Army in Shackleford in a Care Home called Grenville where she cooked many meals. She admits that when she arrived, she could not boil an egg!!.. She did this for twenty-three years but unfortunately, it closed, so she had to find another place to live. She approached the Council in Godalming for accommodation and was fortunate enough to get a one-bedroom flat in Binscombe but due to terrible neighbours she moved to Farncombe where she still is and is *happy to have visitors (note to self)*... After Grenville closed, she worked a short time at Alan Paines and then at Eastbury Manor Care Home for twenty-one years until she retired.

Whilst at The Meath, some girls, (young women really), introduced her to Godalming Baptist Church and Girls' Brigade and she had some lovely outings with them – once actually camping in a Church. The captain very proudly used her as an example to the other girls as she was capable enough to leave school and enter gainful employment. In the early days of living



at Grenville, she used to **walk** across the A3 twice a week to attend Church services and a bible study group. WHAT determination!!

In spite of her epilepsy and transport issues, she continues to live independently in Farncombe by travelling on the bus as much as she can. Sad to say though, no buses run on Sundays and Barnett's kindly help with this. However, she continues serving in the Church by helping weekly in **The Ark** serving refreshments. She enjoys seeing and interacting with the little children. She also still attends as many activities at GBC as she can e.g. **Friendship Lunch** (after the Ark) and **Senior Moments** for instance. Due to a heart condition as well as her epilepsy, sad to say, she can no longer go on the Church outings which she really enjoyed.

In her 'spare' time, she admits to being "quite a good knitter" which is the **understatement** of the year (see photo of a lovely blanket). Most of the articles she knits go to a Christian charity in London.

Wordsearch has also got her hooked and recently she completed one all about the plants and flowers at Kew Gardens which made her laugh as many of the plants/flowers had funny names. She often laughs at herself and happily recounts this story.

Sometimes she does not know what she is doing and once, during the initial stages of a seizure, she walked onto a cricket pitch in the middle of a game. Another time, she nearly walked off a train before her stop. Fortunately, God was looking after her as there always seemed to be kind people around to save her from herself. Praise the good Lord.

Thanks to new medication, her epilepsy has improved, being pretty much under control but recently she had another seizure and fell off the pavement and broke her wrist and yet again (you guessed it), good Samaritans helped. After that, she had a scare and suffered from heart failure as well as a touch of pneumonia for



which she was hospitalised at the RSCH and then had three weeks recuperating in Haslemere Hospital - a place where some of the Nurses recognised her as she had a hip replacement some years ago and was sent there for rehab.

She enjoys reading Christian biographies and I think she would really enjoy Richard Osman's The Thursday Murder Club which **some generous person might like to lend her???** Television is naturally a great comfort to her, and she loves '**gentle**' murder mysteries and 'who done it's' especially Miss Marple's escapades. She also enjoys poetry and often submits her favourites which are published in The Messenger – Thank you Shirley.

On the 12 July she 'celebrated' her 80th Birthday and she was treated to a meal at the King's Arms by her good friends Lesley and Roger and her brother and nephew visited her the next day. She also admits to having received many kind wishes and Cards from the congregation.

One of her 'ditties' goes like this:

At School I caught the scarlet fever; I caught it very bad they wrapped me up in blankets and dumped me in the van. The van was very shaky I nearly tumbled out and as I passed The Colony I heard the children say, Mummy Daddy come and take me home from this paralysed pigsty home. I've been here a year or two, now I want to be with you. Up comes a Nurse with a red hot poker slams the door and takes no notice

Footnote: Shirley is a cheerful sort despite her many challenges, and she continues to serve her God wherever she can. Keep it up, dear Shirley.

BY Carole Goffe-Wood and approved by Shirley and the Barnett's

Connect Safari Meal

On a sunny September day some ladies met for Nibbles at Carole's and then walked, or drove to Babs' where we enjoyed tasty quiches and salad. We moved on to Marion's who spoilt us with delicious desserts followed by coffee or tea. We thoroughly enjoyed our day together and are very grateful to those who hosted us and for the fellowship and friendship we share





**Christmas
2025**

Sunday 7th December

Toy Service 10am



**Saturday 20th
December**

Messy Church 10 am

Sunday 21st December 10am
***Contemporary Family Carol
Service***

***Carols by Candlelight 5 pm
followed by Buffet***



Thursday 25th December 10 am
***Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus
with us***



GODALMING
BAPTIST CHURCH



**Sat 8th November 10am - 12.00
Noon supporting The Catalyst
Centre & Saturday 6th December
Supporting Gaskins Christmas
Lunches**

Here to Help

Catalyst Support is dedicated to enhancing the overall health and wellbeing of individuals by offering a range of services that address both physical and mental health needs. Through our holistic approach, we strive to reduce harm to individuals, their families, and the community by providing assertive outreach and specialist support with compassion and understanding. Join us in making a positive impact on the lives of those in need in Surrey.

People may meet their needs with Catalyst Support without having to repeat their stories and switch between services. With a focus on integrated care from an all-encompassing perspective, Catalyst Support works with social care, health, and local government organisations to make sure people have all the services and support they need. Ultimately, this collaboration aims to create a system that helps people live healthy, fulfilling lives.

"The service you have provided helped me recover from a serious relapse and restore my dignity and order to my life"

Get in Touch



@Catalyst_support



@CATALYSTetho



catalyst.support



Catalyst Support



You Are Not Alone



Supporting wellness together
for over 35 years



Catalyst Support aims to address the primary needs of individuals by providing a safe and non-judgmental environment where people can access numerous holistic services to support their mental health and address substance misuse. Our team of trained professionals is dedicated to empowering individuals to make positive changes in their lives. Through co-production, personalised care plans and evidence-based interventions, the charity strives to help individuals build the skills and confidence needed to overcome challenges and thrive.

Established more than three decades ago, Catalyst Support began as a small community organisation providing assistance with drugs and alcohol. Over the years, it has expanded to become an organisation that assists adults with a range of mental health and wellness issues, providing guidance, support, a listening ear, and a safe haven free from judgement and criticism.



We Are Catalyst Support

Free

From counselling sessions to wellbeing groups, specialist outreach services to helplines, everything we do for our clients comes free of charge.

Confidential

Our support is confidential, non-judgemental and trauma-informed. We offer a safe space for individuals to work on their concerns and get through difficult times.

Local

Based in Surrey for over three decades, we understand the local issues and challenges. We work closely with many local charities, social services and government organisations to build a strong support network in the local community.

Co-produced

We rely on people with lived experience to help design our services, we value the contribution of our service users, and believe that their involvement helps make our services more accessible and encourage equality and diversity.

Become a volunteer:

Join our growing, diverse, and ever-expanding volunteer team, brought together by our shared passion for work and desire to inspire others. A portion of our volunteers are past Catalyst Support clients, some are here for professional or personal growth, and others use volunteering as a stepping stone to get back into employment. Our volunteer team is an essential component of the work we perform at Catalyst Support and contributes a plethora of invaluable expertise and life experience.

Visit our website to view the volunteer positions
or email volunteering@catalystsupport.org.uk

Give a little, help a lot

Being a non-profit, Catalyst Support relies on donations to operate. Every donation is used specifically to support those in need.

Donations made on a one-time or recurring basis can help fund programmes at the Women's Support Centre, the LGBTQ+ listening service, Cuckooing, and more.





GASKIN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2025



FREE LUNCH

24th December

FINAL ORDERS BY 22nd DECEMBER

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR MEAL

www.freechristmaslunch.com

info@freechristmaslunch.com

MARTA 07855846957

FREE DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME

DELIVERY WITHIN 10 MILES OF GUILDFORD

DELIVERY BETWEEN 12PM – 3PM



**WE NEED VOLUNTEER DRIVERS
TO DELIVER**



**FREE EVENT - LONELY, STUDENTS,
HOMELESS, VULNERABLE, OPEN
TO EVERYONE IN NEED**

BOUNDARIES



Led by
Revd. Peter Jackson

Saturday 24th January 2026
10 am – 12.30 pm
(Coffee available from 9.30 am)
at Godalming Baptist Church,
Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA

Is your life out of control?

Do people take advantage of you?

Do you have trouble saying “No”?

Why is it important to have mental, physical, emotional and spiritual boundaries?

How do we establish these boundaries, and how do we cope with people who don't have boundaries or fail to respect ours?

Come and explore some of these challenging issues that have a profound effect on our already busy lives, as Peter sensitively helps unpack these questions and more.

The session will be free of charge, but voluntary donations are invited towards the vital work of ‘Your Sanctuary’ providing support for victims of domestic abuse

**To help with managing numbers, please reserve a place by contacting Sally Pollard
email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646
by Friday 16th January**

A GIFT FOR SOMEONE YOU WILL NEVER MEET

Sunday Morning 7th December 2025



Every Christmas since 1981, we at Godalming Baptist Church have sent toys to the Merton Christian Care Association. They are then given to needy children and teenagers in London who will not get many presents. Our gifts will go to families who have come from many countries as well as Britain and who are homeless, in serious poverty, or otherwise in great need.

They are asking for only NEW items or financial gifts.



If you wish to give money, it will be forwarded on and used to purchase toys, gift vouchers and necessities for the families – Gift Aid forms are available from Roger; please use one if you are a UK taxpayer. Gifts can be cash or by cheque made out to "Christian Care Association". If you prefer bank transfer, please contact Roger who will give you the method.

If you are unable to bring your gifts on 7th December, please get them to Roger before then as they are to be transported within a day or two!

We want our gifts to be as useful as possible and Merton Christian Care have kindly provided some guidelines. They would appreciate it very much if you could take the time to look through this list to see what they can and cannot easily use.

- For boys and girls aged from **6 months to 11 years**. Older children will be given gift vouchers to spend themselves.
- Presents should be left unwrapped.
- **For babies and toddlers** – rattles, bath toys, pull-along toys, puzzles, anything from popular ranges such as Thomas the Tank Engine / Bob the Builder / Night Garden etc. Baby dolls, building blocks etc.
- **Cars, trucks, trains, Lego (especially Lego!), games** – appropriate for different ages.
- **Dolls, tea-sets, buggies, anything from e.g. Action Man, Spider Man, Superman etc. ranges**
- **Outdoor Games** – e.g. footballs, skittles, skipping ropes etc.
- **Indoor Games for the family to share**
- **Stationery** – e.g. crayons, gel pens, pencils, pencil cases, drawing & colouring books, craft activities for boys and girls.
- **Books** – e.g. **fun** activity and story books for all ages, and some appropriate for children where English is not the first language for the family.
- **Clothes etc** – e.g. hats, scarves, gloves, pretty tights, backpacks, bags, umbrellas, jewellery.

Items such as these are NOT useful – please avoid

- *Toys and games with batteries which have to be replaced.*
- *Jigsaws and games with small pieces that are easily lost.*
- *War games, Monopoly and Scrabble are not suitable.*
- *Soft toys are not required as they get too many.*
- *Not dictionaries, encyclopaedias etc.*

Thanks in advance! If you have any queries, please contact Roger Barnett who will endeavour to find the answers!

Codeword – H P T

Unfortunately, this puzzle did not reproduce correctly in the last edition. Eric has now submitted it with darker shading. Thank you, Eric.

13	22	15	22	15	17	23	4	25	4	26	15
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11	24 H
12	25
13 P	26 T

Additional clue (if you need it!) on page 44

Events

Conservatoire Concerts

**November – December 2025
at Godalming Baptist Church**



The charming Portuguese countertenor **João Paulo Ferreira** returns to Godalming for an evening of Baroque - 20th century well known arias.
Accompanied by pianist
Guy Murgatroyd

Saturday 1st November, 7.00pm

Chamber Music Festival



Saturday 30th November, 7.00pm

**Halcyon String Quartet
Performing
Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert**



Saturday 6th December, 7.00pm

**Neruda String Quartet
Performing
Puccini, Beethoven, Dvorak**

Booking:

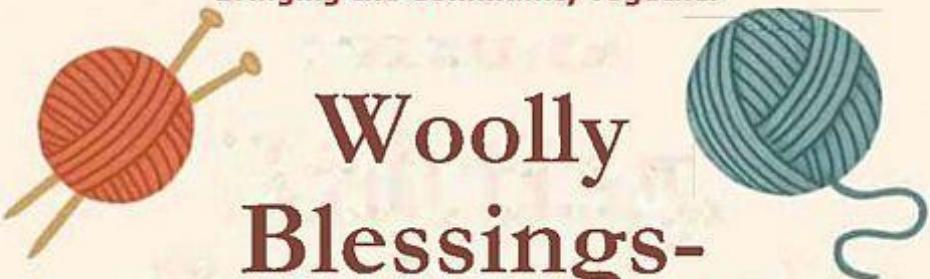
www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk

suzanne.cacciottolo@gmail.com

Admission Free - Retiring collection towards musicians' fees and expenses



Bringing the Community Together



Woolly Blessings- Knitting, Crochet And Chat!

Godalming Baptist Church

Thursday 23rd October

Thursday 6th November

Thursday 20th November

Thursday 11th December

10 til 12 noon

OPEN TO EVERYONE

Coffee & Tea Served-
£1 appreciated



Come and learn or why not pass on your expertise to a new friend while having fun. Bring your own wool. For further information call Michele on 07525 164409

Woolly Blessings is our new knitting and crochet group who meet on alternate Thursday mornings to the Friendship Lunch.

Our idea is that the items we make can be donated to the local hospitals or nursing homes, or maybe "sold for a donation" at the monthly Coffee Stops or tables for the Ratidzo Trust. We're open to any other ideas you may have!

There is a nominal charge of £1 per person: this money will be used to maybe buy some wool, or even biscuits 😊. Please do ask Michele T if you have any queries.

Prayers



Sunday

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew in me a steadfast spirit within me.

At the beginning of the week I come with praise and worship declaring that you are Sovereign Lord high and lifted up, holy in all of your ways. Create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Lead me into the beauty of your holiness and enable me to worship in spirit and truth. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen

Monday

Psalm 90:17 May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us.

As I start a working I look to you, my God and King, that you may direct my ways and the work of my hands. That all I think and say and do may be considered and weighed that they may reflect your ways and be undertaken with your love and compassion. May I be like Christ to all that meet as I allow your Holy Spirit to lead, guide and direct. Thank you for the breath in my lungs and your daily provision in Jesus name. Amen

Tuesday

Psalm 62:7 My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

As much as I would like every day to be straightforward and without problems it seems often that the opposite is the reality. In such circumstances help me to remember the promises of your word and rely on the assurance of your Spirit to be able to not only cope but find the peace and joy that only you can bring into my life as these things happen. May the name of Jesus be glorified as you work in Mine. Amen

Wednesday

Psalm 132:15 I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor I will satisfy with food.

Today I count my blessings. I wake up safe and in comfort with all the facilities that I need to live out today. Thank you for running water, for a toilet that flushes. I appreciate being able to shop and choose my food and clothes. For all

good gifts I give thanks but remember that this is not the situation for many people, some in this country but many elsewhere in the world. Please hear our prayer for those in need and where I can help please prompt me to do so. Will you bless governments with the will and wisdom to engage with the need and work to your glory through individuals and organisations seeking to help. Amen

Thursday

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Thank you for your promise of the eternal nature of the church and my part in it through Jesus Christ my Lord. I pray for the church for its blessing, encouragement and growth. I ask that the harvest of people may be brought in. That individuals will be raised up and equipped to lead, guide and direct the congregations. For those under persecution and trial for their faith will you uphold them and give them the courage to hold firm to their faith in Jesus name.

Friday

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

As the working week heads to a close my prayer is for peace. Peace in individual lives which are in turmoil, for peace in communities riven by division, for peace between nations where there seems no grounds for agreement. For an end to aggression and bloodshed; for opportunity to establish a peace which allows communities to grieve and to rebuild their communities and find a secure future in which to raise their children and discover a new joy in life. Amen.

Saturday

Hebrews 4:7 Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.

Today as many people have a day for rest and relaxation I thank you for the blessing of rest and the many options for using my time for pleasure. Please help me to be wise in my use of time and treasure the time you have given me. Above all thank you for the Sabbath-rest as you, my God, rested from your work, so may I make every effort to enter that rest. I do not want a hardened heart and ask that I will be saved from that by a deep relationship with you; to your praise and glory. Amen.





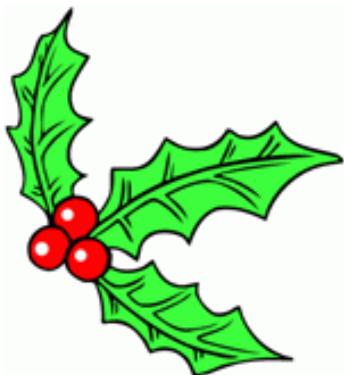
GBC Christmas Postbox

**Please post all cards by
Wednesday 10th December**

**Cards ready for collection on
Sunday 14th December.**

**All donations gratefully received in
lieu of stamps for the work of
Trinity Trust.**

Thank you!



NEWSLETTER



September 2025

Autumn 2025

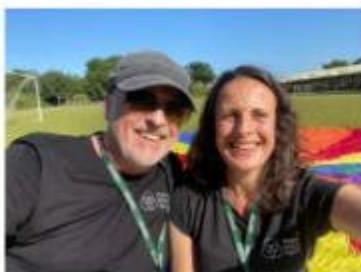
We hope you are all well and had the summer you were hoping for; some like to be outward bound, whilst others like to relax with a book, some head for the hills, some the coast, some to large events whilst others prefer more intimate gatherings or solitude. We all find refreshment in different ways as we are all so uniquely and wonderfully made.

In this newsletter we'll pick up from where we left off in May to reflect on a busy summer term and look ahead to a new term with all the opportunities it brings as we resume our full range of groups and programmes.

Moving on Workshops/Year 7 Transition

Central to our summer term programme is to support staff and children with the transition from Year 6 into Year 7 (a huge step as we all know) through our Moving On workshop. During June we visit local junior and primary schools with the interactive workshop we designed aimed at engaging students to embrace the increased ownership around time and resource management required for secondary age. Getting to the right place at the right time with the right equipment is not always as easy as it sounds when you are used to spending 80% of your daily learning in the same classroom.

In early July we then support the Year 7 Intake Day at Broadwater School team building activities to support the students in feeling more acclimatised to their new school environment and tutor groups. We work closely with Year 6 and Year 7 leads to adapt our sessions to fit the key messages they are keen to land with the transition students, and the workshops are highly valued and well received.



Andy and Annette at St Mark and All Saints

Summer Activities Programme

We began the school summer holidays as we have been doing for the past 20 years, with a high energy week of activities running from 21st-25th July. The week started with a day at Walton Firs in Cobham with tomahawk throwing (!) crate stacking, air rifle shooting and aero-ball.

The Tuesday was a great combo of Top Golf in the morning followed by a trip to Coral Reef for water slides and swimming. Midweek we matched indoor karting with laser quest before our traditional end to the week: Thorpe Park and Chichester Water Sports, where the sun shone as we took kayaks and stand-up paddle boards on the lake and the young people also enjoyed the inflatable aqua park.

Special thanks to the team, volunteers, all the instructors and the National Lottery 'Awards for All' funds that allow us to deliver such a packed programme at highly subsidised rates.



www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

September 2025

We phase our return to our full, regular programme to allow time for the team to meet, pray and plan and for the children and young people to settle back into their school lives:



RODBOROUGH CU – resumed Tuesday 9th September with the excellent 'Life Revealed' collaboration between Alpha and the Bible Project, an animated adaptation of Luke's Gospel and Acts.



BROADWATER CU – resumed Thursday 11th September with the dynamic new Alpha Youth series brought to us from the Alpha team in Australia.



OUTREACH @ AARONS HILL – resumed Friday 12th with the team engaging children and young people in outdoor activities, supported by the team from the Godalming Youth Service.



FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL – resumed Friday 12th also, this highly popular youth group we run in partnership with the team at Godalming Minster at the Old Rectory.



WOWZA! – after school club resumed Monday 15th at Godalming Junior School for more movies, chat and craft.



LOSELEY FIELDS YOUTH CAFÉ – also resumed Monday 15th for more pool, table tennis and football at Loseley Fields Family Centre on Green Lane.



FUSION CHILDREN'S GROUP – resumed Wednesday 17th at Godalming Baptist Church for more games, bible stories, singing and craft: this term with a focus on the miracles of Jesus.



FUSE YOUTH GROUP – also resumed on Wednesday 17th at Godalming Baptist Church to begin the new series of Alpha Youth (Australia).

Please pray:

- For the team as they plan and prepare for a return to our full programme this autumn and for the children and young people returning to our groups and those about to begin them.
- For our partnerships with other local youth focused organisations and that we will continue to have gospel opportunities in our local schools, churches and communities.
- For the financial resources to build the team and broaden these mission fields in the year ahead.

Thank you for continuing to support the work of TTT!

Andy Poulson (Team Director) on behalf of all those at TTT.

All our groups are FREE and you can sign up via our website www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk

Please register online at www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk for future newsletters



Andy Poulson
Team Director



Isaac Lucas
Part-time Youth
Worker



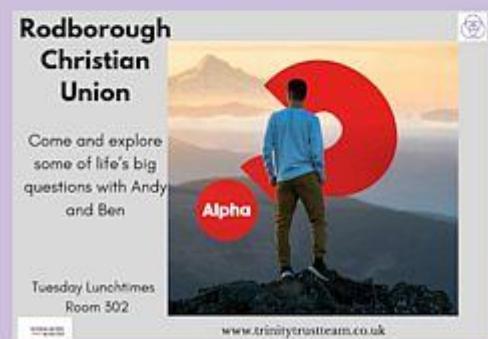
Annette Davies
Part-time Youth
Worker



Joe Evans
Part-time Youth
Worker

www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk

Just some of the weekly groups run by TTT open to young people



Check out www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk for details and to register.





A Christmas Compendium
Discover Christmas Old & New
By J. John

Did you know that Bethlehem is the Hebrew word for 'house of bread', or that card is from the Greek khartes meaning Papyrus leaf? These and many more intriguing facts about Christmas are contained in this compendium.

The Way Home

By Ron Kallmier

Whatever our beliefs, most of us want to know where we've come from, where we're going, and to understand the purpose of everything in between.

If you are exploring ideas about faith, these ten real-life stories will hopefully inspire you to keep on looking, and find where you truly belong.

Godalming Baptist Church library has a vast selection of books covering various life issues e.g. Bereavement, Dementia, Addictions, Autism, Depression, Self-Harm etc. There are also books on encouragement and guidance in life's journey.

Open Sunday mornings after 11:30am or weekdays during term time between 9:00 and 12:00 (subject to bookings)

Peace Is A Rose



Rosa 'Peace'

Peace is a rose.

**So lovely, so delicate, so fragrant,
so easily crushed.**

**Holy God, let peace flower in our
damaged world.**

In parched places, let peace take root.

**In broken places, let peace send forth
strong shoots,**

**in barren places, let peace bud and
bloom,**

**that all may see her beauty,
feel her softness.**

**be overcome by her gentle perfume,
and tend her.**

Amen.



Lest We Forget

POEM from 'Prayers of Life' by Michel Quoist
Kindly read and supplied to us by Daphne B

All men complain that they haven't enough time and it's because they look at their lives from a human point of view. There's always time to do what God wants us to do, but we must put ourselves completely into each moment that he offers us.

Be most careful then how you conduct yourselves like sensible men not simpletons. Use the present opportunity to the full for these are evil days. So do not be fools, but try to understand what the will of the Lord is (Eph 5:15-17)

*I went out Lord
men were coming out
they were coming and going
walking and running
Everything was rushing, cars, lorries, the street,
the whole town
Men were rushing after time
to catch up with time
To GAIN time*

*Goodbye sir, excuse me, I haven't time
I'll come back I can't wait I haven't time
I must end this letter – I haven't time
I'd love to help you but I haven't time
I can't accept having no time
I can't think I can't read, I'm swamped, I haven't
time
I'd like to pray, but I haven't time*

*You understand, Lord, they simply haven't the
time*

*The child is playing he hasn't time right now ...
Later on the schoolboy has his homework to do he hasn't time
Later on,
The student has his courses, and so much work, he hasn't time*



Later on;

The young man is at his sports, he hasn't time

Later on the married man has his new house - he has to fix it up he *hasn't* time

Later on

The grandparents have their grandchildren, they haven't time

Later on they are ill, they have their treatments and they haven't time

Later on they are dying, they have no..... **Too late!** ...

They have no more time

And so, all men run after time Lord

They pass through life running – hurried, jostled, over-burdened, frantic and they never get there. They haven't time

In spite of all their efforts, they are still short of time; of a *great deal* of time

Lord, you must have made a mistake in your calculations.

There is a big mistake somewhere;

The hours are too short,

The days are too short,

Our lives are too short.

YOU, who are beyond time, Lord, you smile to see us fighting it

And you know what you are doing

You make no mistakes in your distribution of time to men

You give each one time to do what you want him to do

But, we must not lose time, waste time, kill time,

For time is a gift that you give us

But a perishable gift; a gift that does not keep

Lord, I have time,

I have plenty of time,

All the time that you give me,

The years of my life,

The days of my years,

The hours of my days

They are all mine,

Mine to fill, quietly, calmly, BUT to fill completely, up to the brim and to offer them to you that of their insipid water

You may make a rich wine such as you once made in Cana of Galilee

I am not asking you tonight, Lord, for time to do this and that But YOUR grace to do conscientiously, in the time that you give me, what you want me to do.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1 - According to tradition, in which European territory does Father Christmas live?
.....

2 - In the carol, which King looked out on the Feast of Stephen?

3 - What popular Christmas song was the first song to be broadcast from space in 1965?

4 - Which of the following has NOT had at least 3 consecutive Christmas Number One?

- A - LadBaby
- B - The Spice Girls
- C - The Beatles
- D - Wham!

5- In what year was 'There's no-one quite like Grandma' the Christmas number one hit?
.....



6 - Which Christmas song has been recorded the most times?
.....

7 - According to the Met Office, only one of the following was a White Christmas in the UK, 2018, 2019 or 2020?

8 - Since the 1960s, what sweet item has been created each year for display in The White House?

9 - What colour is the candle traditionally placed in the window on Christmas Eve in Ireland?

10 - What is the name of the small candle often used for Christmas decorations?
.....



11 - In the Bible, who was King when Jesus was born?
.....

12 - What is a Smoking Bishop?.....

13 - Where would you find Christmas Island?

- A - Atlantic Ocean
- B - Indian Ocean
- C - North Sea
- D - Pacific Ocean

14 - Which country set a Guinness World Record for the largest surfing lesson with everyone dressed as Santa?

15 - Why would you assume that Father Christmas' reindeer are female?

.....

16 - What is the name of Scrooge's clerk?

17 - How many reindeer pull Father Christmas' sleigh?

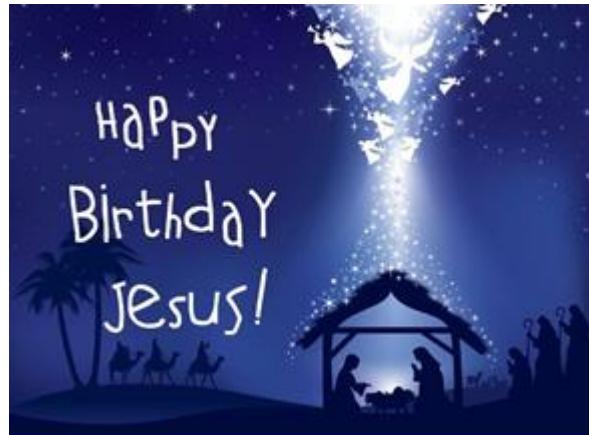
18 - What is the name of Father Christmas' wife?

.....

19 - Which of the following is NOT one of Father Christmas' reindeer?

- A - Blitzen
- B - Donner
- C - Spritzer
- D - Prancer

20 - What song about Father Christmas has been recorded to great success since 1934 by The Jackson5, Mariah Carey, Bruce Springsteen, Michael Bublé and more?!



For answers see page 44

Recipe

CheroSET Apple Crumble (based on CheroSET eaten at Passover)

Ingredients

4 Cooking Apples
1 Cup Chopped Walnuts
1 Cup Chopped Figs
1 Cup Chopped Dates
(can be adjusted to personal choice)
Half a Cup Sultanas
5 Tablespoons of Red Wine or Red Grape Juice
2 Teaspoons of Honey
1 Teaspoon of Cinnamon



Method

Peel and core apples
Slice and stew until tender
Chop nuts and dried fruit and add to apples
Mix in honey and wine/ grape juice
Taste and add sugar if needed or more honey
Top with crumble mix and bake until golden brown for 30-40 minutes
at 160 degrees C

Harvest

Harvest Service Display Groceries donated to Godalming Community Store and St Mark's FoodBank





Thank you to Clarissa for creating such a wonderful Harvest Display and to Dolly, Louise, Clarissa, Stephen and Jo H for packing the goods to be given.
Thank you to everyone at GBC and Friendship Lunch who donated groceries. It was very much appreciated.

Christmas Quiz Answers

1 - Lapland

2 - Wenceslas

3 - Jingle Bells

4 - Wham

5 - 1980

6 - Silent Night

7 - 2020

8 - A Gingerbread House

9 - Red

10 - Tealight

11 - Herod

12 - A Drink-mulled wine popular in Victorian England

13 – B - Indian Ocean

14 - Australia

15 - They have antlers - male reindeer lose their antlers in winter

16 - Bob Cratchitt

17 - Nine

18 - Mrs Claus

19-C - Spritzer

20 - Santa Claus is Coming To Town

Additional Codeword clue if needed: L code is 20

Thoughts Christmas Cards

I have a list of friends I know, all written
in a book
And every year at Christmas time, I go
and take a look.
And that is when I realise, these names
are a part
Not of a book they're written in, but of
my very heart.

Each name stands for someone who has
crossed my path sometime
And in that meeting they've become the
rhythm of the rhyme
And while it sounds fantastic for me to
make this claim
I really am composed of each
remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any
special link
Just meeting you has changed my life, much more than you think
For once you've met somebody, the years cannot erase
The memory of the pleasant word or the friendly face.

So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you
It is because you're on that list of folk I'm indebted to.

For you are but a total of the many folk I've met
And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget
And whether I have known you for many years or a few
In some way you had a part in shaping things I do.

And in every year when Christmas comes, I realise anew
The biggest gift that life can give, is meeting folk like you
So may the Spirit of Christmas that forever and ever endures
Leave its richest blessings in the hearts for you and yours.

By George A. Gladden, Sr.



Is God Enough?

I have often asked this question as I stand in front of the storehouse of heaven, staring at its swung wide-open doors.

'God, are you enough?'

Many times, I've sheepishly stepped through the doors and cautiously picked up two small copper coins, turned and walked out.

'Lord, are you really enough?'

Walking away in that moment, I continue to live as a pauper eking out a living on the two small coins. I'm slow and ashamed to return to the storehouse.

'Lord, this isn't enough. - Why aren't you enough?'

No child, it isn't. And it's not supposed to be! All the riches of heaven are here for you. Come through, the doors are swung wide open for you. Come inside and grab all that you can possibly hold. It's all here, waiting for you."



Suddenly, as if for the first time today, when I step in, I see silver and gold, gems, jewels, precious stones and riches of every kind filling every shelf from floor to ceiling and covering every inch of floor from wall to wall.



'Child, I gave you my only begotten Son. I gave you my Spirit. I emptied heaven when I gave you my Emmanuel Presence. And as if the greatest treasure of heaven were not enough, there's more; Look - here is peace like a river. Over there - endless agape love and forgiveness like a fountain. On that shelf - joy abounding and power unlimited. On this one - grace and sufficiency for every moment and strength equal to your days.

It's all here, but you do not come and take it. Even when you do come, you do not see it. When you see it, you see too little. And you take even less than you see. And so, it hasn't been enough.

Child, come all the way in. Grab all you possibly can hold. Come back as quickly and as often as you want, for it will never run empty. I intend you live extravagantly in measure with your royal nature.'

'Forgive me Father. I will come often and fill up. And as you have given me so freely, I will likewise, freely give heaven's treasure to all who will receive it. I will go to the highways and the byways giving and inviting.'

(Philip Chamberlain – former member of GBC)

There will always
be hard days,
but they don't erase
the good ones.

Keep going.

There's still joy waiting
to surprise you.





You are warmly invited to join us for Sunday Services at 10:00am
Our morning services are recorded and videoed and are available to watch live or on
YouTube later

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCwMJcsPAKXKSlmP7sfTfCg>

**For confidential pastoral support please contact:
Revd. Peter Jackson - peterandchris@ntlworld.com
07846 252138**

**Pastor Jack Curtis - jackscurtis@hotmail.com
07809 443577**

**or
Sally Pollard, Pastoral Worker - pollard3@hotmail.co.uk
01483 428646 or 07976 276753**

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Church Office: 01483 422105**