

Supportive and dedicated music teacher in Burton area, with **100% ABRSM** exam pass rate (**68% merit or above**) and over 20 years of experience, offers the following services  
**Flute & Piano** tuition, including preparation for ABRSM and GCSE performance exams.



Grade 5 Theory preparation.  
 Accompaniment for instrumental exams.  
 All ages and abilities welcome.  
 Lessons tailored to your individual requirements.  
 Competitive rates.



For further information or to book your first lesson, please contact Sue.

Email: [smcloughlin.musicteacher@gmail.com](mailto:smcloughlin.musicteacher@gmail.com)

Mobile: 07749218307

## TRENT TROPHIES

170 Calais Road  
 Burton on Trent  
 Staffordshire  
 DE13 0UW



email  
[burtontrenttrophies@gmail.com](mailto:burtontrenttrophies@gmail.com)

Tel: 07969972892 Local Sports Retail Outlet

(genuine alternative to Town Shopping)

**Mon & Wed**

Closed

**Tue; Thu; Fri**

10am – 4pm

**Sat**

10am-2pm

Suppliers of **Sports Trophies**

**Rosettes & Lead Crystal**

for all occasions

Full Engraving Service

Bowls Renovation Service



65-67 Horninglow Rd. Burton  
 Tel 568711

35-36 St Peter's St. Stapenhill  
 Tel 564800

1 Unit 1 Main St. Stretton  
 Tel 546636

6 High St. Tutbury  
 Tel 812218

[www.deanandsmedley.com](http://www.deanandsmedley.com)

**Prescriptions**

**Medicines & Advice**

**Blood pressure checks\***

**Pharmacy First**

**Travel Vaccination Service#**

**Seasonal flu vaccinations\***

\*charge may apply  
 #Horninglow only



## THE CALAIS FISH BAR

111 CALAIS ROAD, BURTON. Tel 499060

Open **EVERY Weekday** - Monday to Saturday

**LUNCHTIME:- 11.30am - 2pm**

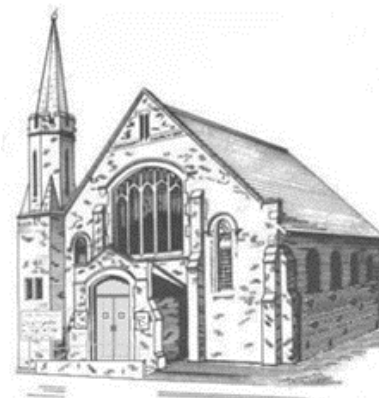
**EVENING:- 4.30pm - 10.00pm**

Now open **SUNDAYS:- 4-8.30pm**



# ST. THOMAS'S METHODIST CHURCH BURTON ON TRENT

## FOCUS JUNE/JULY 2025



ISSUE 229

If you would like to advertise here, or know anyone who would, please contact, or get them to contact one of the Church Stewards, or the Editor,  
**Gill Bentley, for details and costings!**



for all your floral needs whatever the occasion  
81 New Street Burton on Trent Staffs DE14 3QY  
t. 01283 515500/561807 e. info@phillipsfloristsd.co.uk  
Order Online [www.phillipsflorists.co.uk](http://www.phillipsflorists.co.uk)

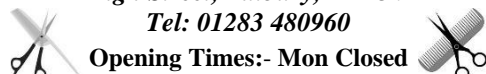


### **"Rachel's at No. 12"**

GREAT HAIR - Doesn't happen by chance. It happens by appointment

12 High Street, Tutbury, DE13 9LP

Tel: 01283 480960



Opening Times:- Mon Closed

Tues; Wed: 9am – 5 pm; Thur: 9am – 1pm

Fri: 9am – 7pm; Sat: 8 am – 12 noon;

Sun – Closed



### **JOHNSON'S PETS AND GARDENS**

All your Pet and Garden requirements under one roof

68/69 HORNINGLOW ROAD  
Burton-on-Trent

Tel: 01283 565057

Website: [www.pohstep.com](http://www.pohstep.com)

### **Brett's Computer Services Ltd.**

Your Local IT Technician

Genuine Help and Advice

Specialist in Home Users

Repairs; Upgrades  
Custom Built PCs  
Internet Difficulties  
iPad and Tablet Setup  
Basic Computer Lessons



Home 01283 815454; Mobile 07931616649

## **Murray's Funeral Directors**

*An Independent Family Run Funeral Service for  
Horninglow, Burton and surrounding areas*

Traditional or  
Contemporary funerals

Pre payment plans  
designed to suit you

Monumental Masonry

Floral Tributes

Now open in Findern, Derby  
and Barton under Needwood

[www.murraysfunerals.co.uk](http://www.murraysfunerals.co.uk)

01283 562299

23, York Street, Burton upon Trent, Staffs (corner of York and Dallow St.)



### **DO YOU (OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW) NEED A ROOM?**

We have two rooms available for general meetings -  
**Ladies', Men's or combined groups, rummage sales,  
parties (children up to 12 years of age),  
Mums & Tots groups etc.**

We can offer the following....

- **Room 1** 20ft X 19ft (The "Belvedere Room").
- **Room 2** 27ft x 18ft (The "Carlton Room").
- Kitchen & cooker and utensils, microwave, fridge, boiler, kettles, crockery etc.
  - Full toilet facilities (including disabled).
- Level access for wheelchairs etc. to all rooms.
- Use of private carpark (5 - 7 cars) (at own risk).
  - Free WiFi available.

For all enquiries contact our Letting Secretary (Liz Merrick)  
or ring her on 07752646401.

### **Meetings & Worship @ St. Thomas's -**

to which **All are Welcome**

**Sunday Worship** takes place each Sunday  
**@ 10.00am.**

**Coffee Mornings** 10.00am - 11.30am  
on the **1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month**

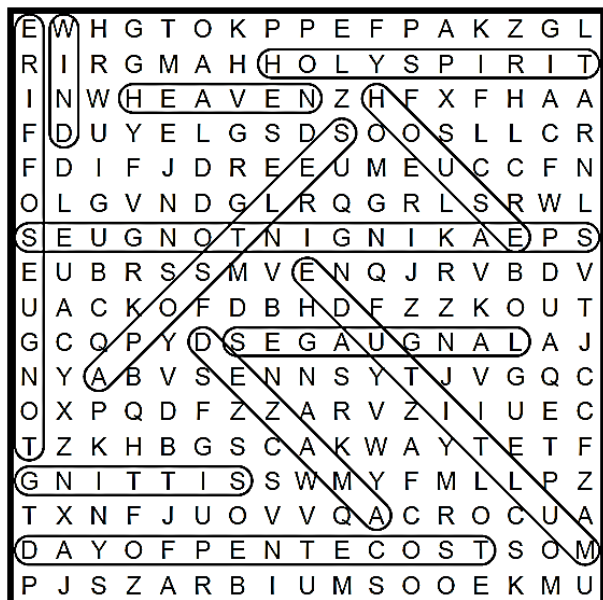
**Wednesday Group** 2pm - 4pm –  
on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month**  
(with Activities and Guest Speakers)

## The Mystery of the Trinity Answers

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 16-5-18-19-15-14-19 PERSONS
2. 8-15-12-25 HOLY
3. 19-16-9-18-9-20 SPIRIT
4. 13-25-19-20-5-18-25 MYSTERY
5. 20-8-18-5-5 THREE
6. 15-14-5 ONE
7. 20-18-9-14-9-20-25 TRINITY
8. 19-15-14 SON
9. 7-15-4 GOD
10. 6-1-20-8-5-18 FATHER

TRINITY	THREE	GOD	MYSTERY	HOLY
FATHER	PERSONS	SON	SPIRIT	ONE



Dear Friends,

Normally Focus begins with a pastoral letter from our minister, Rev Rachel Moss, but unfortunately Rachel is currently unwell. We send her our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

As editor, I have been pondering how to fill this thought provoking space. An article I read recently about friendships came to mind. A survey has apparently revealed that by the time we reach our seventies, the average person has only four friends. Experience shows that friendships may come and go during the journey of life, through parenting, our work and interests, but in retirement our number of friends may decline.

Real friendship is something very precious, especially in these days of social media when hundreds of Facebook 'Friends' appear to abound. The question is how do we define true friendship?

On 7<sup>th</sup> June I will be celebrating the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of my friend Pat and her husband Frank. Pat is my oldest friend. We first met when I was 17 and had just left school. Pat was teaching at the Burton School of Art and Craft in Waterloo Street and my first job was working in the Art School office. This friendship of 60 years has stood the test of time, having shared the many twists and turns of life.

Some of you may be fortunate to still have friends from school days who you remain in contact with. Sometimes our friends move away and popping in for a chat or meeting up is not so easy. I have two close friends who no longer live locally but we regularly indulge in lengthy conversations on the phone sharing our news and worries.

More recently formed friendships are significant too. In 2011, having been retired for three years, life was looking good with the arrival of our first grandson William in February and news of another grandchild due in October. In August, however, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a mastectomy in September, followed by several months of treatment.

At this time I had not been attending church on a regular basis, but had been kept in touch with what was happening at St Thomas's by the regular receipt of the Focus magazine, which popped through my letterbox via Sheila Fern, someone I had known since my Sunday School days at Victoria Street Methodist Church. Sheila wrote to me post-surgery, sending best wishes and telling me that she would be praying for me and my recovery. She continued to do so throughout my treatment and the further reconstruction surgery I underwent in 2013. For this operation I had to go to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and I was particularly anxious about it. Throughout this period, I was conscious of some inner strength which enabled me to remain strangely calm and positive about my situation. This was quite remarkable given I had always been somewhat anxious and squeamish about illness and definitely about hospitals!

Following my initial surgery and period of recovery, in early 2012 I decided to go along to the local Breast Care Support Group, meeting monthly at the Breast Care Unit at Queens Hospital, Burton. The group was for anyone who had been diagnosed with breast cancer and who were at various stages in their treatment. Importantly, over a cup of tea it was an opportunity to chat and share experiences and concerns. Specialist nurses were always on hand to offer help and support. By 2014 I found myself on the committee of the group, by now meeting at Burton Library. From that time four of us remain on the committee, not only survivors of breast cancer but also most definitely firm friends.

Throughout this period of recovery, I had begun to attend church more frequently, sitting on the back row alongside Sheila. Although sadly Sheila passed away in December 2014, I firmly believe her prayers and support helped me through this difficult time and ultimately helped me renew and strengthen my faith and return to regular worship.

Nothing's more important than true friendship. As we grow older, we may only have a small number, but nothing gives comfort like a true friend.

## YMCA Food Bank

Thank you to all who continue to support the ongoing collection for the YMCA Food Bank and items can always be left in the box at the rear of the church.

The YMCA are very grateful for our support and regularly send us letters of appreciation.

## Saturday Coffee Mornings – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month 10 – 11.30am

Many thanks to our hosts for the April coffee morning, Liz, Jane and Sue.

Our hosts for the June and July coffee mornings are as follows :

7<sup>th</sup> June – Stella Hambleton and Mark & Alison Robinson  
5<sup>th</sup> July – Liz Merrick, Jane Currin and Sue Hill

Please come along and enjoy a hot drink and a choice of some delicious cakes. A warm welcome is extended to all.

A reminder that we also have a selection of books available from our **Book Store** – 50p per book or 3 for £1.  
The books have recently been refreshed, with plenty of choice!

## The next edition of Focus ...

Anyone wishing to have an article included in the next edition of Focus, should submit these to the editor by Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup> 2025. Contact details 07989568979 or [gillbentley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gillbentley@hotmail.co.uk). Thank you.

CIRCUIT NEWS

Save the date : Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm

A reminder that that the Circuit Leaving service for Rev'd Mike Redshaw and Lay Pastor Graham Mizon will be held on this date. Full details re venue will be advised in due course.

Voluntary Circuit Archivist Role

The Circuit is still looking to fill the above role to support and advise the Circuit and churches on issues relating to records and archive management, to promote good governance and compliance, and to ensure that records are retained, deposited in local archive services if they are of archival value, or destroyed as appropriate. A full description of the role is available on the Circuit website.

DISTRICT EVENT

Dementia Introduction Session

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am to 12.30pm

Venue: St Michael's Rocester ST14 5JZ

This is a free course and it's an opportunity to increase dementia awareness, so that we understand more about dementia. It promotes working together in welcoming, understanding, respecting, supporting and listening to and learning from people affected by dementia.

The trainer Sarah Thorpe, is the Lichfield Diocese Dementia Enabler and is travelling a long way to organise this event. We would like to encourage a representative from our District to go along and attend.

Full details of the regular weekly events around the Circuit can be accessed via the Circuit website [essdmethodistcircuit.org](http://essdmethodistcircuit.org).

+ + + + +

Of course, as a Christian, I know that I also have a friend in Jesus. Through prayer I know He is always there for each one of us if we only open our hearts and let Him in. At times, particularly when things are difficult, I somehow know He is there and helping me. He knows my most inner thoughts and struggles and by putting my trust in Him I know He will always be with me and help me through. The words of one of my favourite hymns summarises what it means to have a friend in Jesus. Read and believe.

Gill

*What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations,  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged:  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness:  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge –  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.*



**Pentecost**, also called Whit Sunday, Whitsunday or Whitsun, is a Christian celebration which takes place on the 50th day after Easter Day. Since its date depends on the date of Easter, Pentecost is a "moveable feast". It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Jewish festival of Shavuot which is called the "Festival of Weeks" as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1–31).

In Judaism, Shavuot is a harvest festival that is celebrated seven weeks and one day after the first day of Passover in Deuteronomy 16:9. The Festival of Weeks is also known as the Feast of Harvest in Exodus 23:16 and the Day of First Fruits in Numbers 28:26. In Exodus 34:22, it is called the "first fruits of the wheat harvest. The events of Acts Chapter 2 are set against the backdrop of the celebration of Pentecost in Jerusalem. The author begins by noting that the disciples of Jesus "were all together in one place" on the "day of Pentecost". There is a "mighty rushing wind" (wind is a common symbol for the Holy Spirit) and "tongues as of fire" appear. The gathered disciples were "filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance"

The typical image of Pentecost in the West is that of the disciples with flames resting on the crowns of their heads.

Occasionally, parting clouds suggesting the action of the "mighty wind";



rays of light and the Dove are also depicted. We even have part of the symbolism in the Methodist Church symbol.



Many Christian denominations provide a special liturgy for this holy celebration.

From the early days of Western Christianity, Pentecost became one of the days set aside to celebrate Baptism. It is thought that the term Whit Sunday derives from the custom of the newly baptized wearing white clothing, and from the white vestments worn by the clergy in English liturgical uses.

Monday after Pentecost is a legal holiday in many European, African and Caribbean countries.

submitted by Terry

## PENTECOST WORD SEARCH



AMAZED

APOSTLES

DAY OF PENTECOST

HEAVEN

HOLY SPIRIT

HOUSE

LANGUAGES

MULTITUDE

SITTING

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

TONGUES OF FIRE

WIND

Submitted by Terry

# The Mystery of the Trinity

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

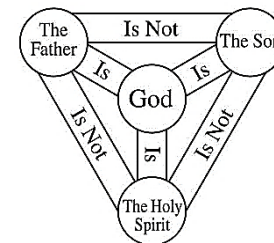


A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 16-5-18-19-15-14-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8-15-12-25 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-16-9-18-9-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13-25-19-20-5-18-25 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20-8-18-5-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 15-14-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20-18-9-14-9-20-25 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-15-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-15-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6-1-20-8-5-18 \_\_\_\_\_

TRINITY	THREE	GOD	MYSTERY	HOLY
FATHER	PERSONS	SON	SPIRIT	ONE

**Trinity Sunday** is the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Western Christian calendar, and Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.



Trinity Sunday is celebrated in all the Western churches: Latin Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, and Methodist.

In the early Church, no special Office or day was assigned for the Holy Trinity. However, Pope John XXII (1316–1334) ordered the feast for the entire Church on the first Sunday after Pentecost and since it was after the first great Pentecost that the doctrine of the Trinity was proclaimed to the world, the feast becomingly follows that of Pentecost.

In traditional Methodist usage, The Book of Worship for Church and Home (1965) provides the following Collects for Trinity Sunday:

*“Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the unity: We beseech thee to keep us steadfast in this faith and evermore defend us from all adversities who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.”*

*“Almighty and everlasting God, who hast revealed thyself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and dost ever live and reign in the perfect unity of love: Grant that we may always hold firmly and joyfully to this faith, and, living in praise of thy divine majesty, may finally be one in thee; who art three persons in one God, world without end. Amen.”*

Trinity Sunday is the Sunday following Pentecost, and eight weeks after Easter Sunday. The earliest possible date is 17<sup>th</sup> May (as in 1818 and 2285). The latest possible date is 20<sup>th</sup> June (as in 1943 and 2038). This year it is towards the latter end of these dates on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by Terry

## VE Day Celebration

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, St Thomas's held an afternoon tea to celebrate VE Day. The room had been decorated with red, white and blue bunting and the tables decorated with Union Jacks.

37 people sat down to enjoy a ham salad, scones and jam, and a selection of home-made cakes, together with plenty of tea and coffee. Recordings of music and songs from the war days were provided by John Jones, together with a recording of Winston Churchill's famous speech declaring the end of the war. A table quiz was also available to add to the fun, with the prize winners receiving bars of chocolate. Before the end of the afternoon, Brian Hambleton, took the microphone to share an experience he had during the war whilst living in Derby.

Feedback on the afternoon has been very good and well received. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event or sent donations, which raised £171 for Church funds.

+ + + + +

Found in a New Zealand paper : **"Gardener's Prayer"**

"Lord, grant that in some way it may rain every day, say from about midnight until 3 o'clock in the morning, but you see it must be gentle and warm so that it can soak in. Grant at the same time that it should not rain on the campion, alyssum, helianthemum, lavender and the others which You in your wisdom know are drought-loving plants – I will write the names on a bit of paper if you like.

And grant that the sun may shine the whole day through but not everywhere (for instance, not on spiraea, gentian or rhododendron) and not too much. That there may be plenty of dew and very little wind, enough worms, no mealy bugs, slugs or snails, no mildew or fungus, and that once a week thin liquid manure may fall from the heavens – Amen."

Gardeners don't ask for much, do they .....

## Sunday Services

### June 2025

1<sup>st</sup> 10.30am - Circuit Service at The Well

8<sup>th</sup> 10.00am - Denise Hancock *Pentecost – Whit Sunday*

15<sup>th</sup> 10.00am - LA - Terry Butler *Trinity Sunday  
Father's Day*

22<sup>nd</sup> 10.00am - TBA

29<sup>th</sup> 10.00am - TBA

### July 2025

6<sup>th</sup> 10.00am - TBA

13<sup>th</sup> 10.00am - TBA

20<sup>th</sup> 10.00am - TBA

27<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – TBA

Unfortunately at the time of going to print on this edition, full details of the plan are not available.



## FUNERAL

20<sup>th</sup> May

Mary Whenman

Bretby Crematorium



## Lost in Emotion

Sometimes I feel lost in a maze of emotions,  
where every direction feels like a dead-end street.  
I feel so alone in my search for an answer  
that I start to blame God for not meeting my needs.

But God never promised that life would be easy,  
for trials will come in different forms.  
But He did promise that He would never forsake us  
and that we can still have peace in the midst of the storm.

God's love runs deeper than the deepest ocean,  
but He is not altered by the moods that we bring.  
For every problem, He has a solution.  
He is consistently working behind the scenes.

So whenever you feel like you're losing the battle  
and you want to just bow your head in defeat,  
remember, with God you are always the winner,  
for with Him by your side, you will never be beat!

*Poem by Josephine Zavala-Florez  
Published by Family Friend Poems  
April 2018*

+ + + + +

Here are some **"Thoughts For The Day"**

*We need the power of love, not the love of power.*

*Let us make silver linings with other people's clouds*

*People need love especially when they don't deserve it.*

## Remembering Margaret Rogers

Margaret and her late husband Mick were members of St Thomas's Methodist Church for many years and members of our Wednesday Group. We were sad to hear the news that Margaret passed away on the 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Margaret worked so hard for the church making greeting cards to sell, decorating the church for special events and using her artistic talents for the benefit of others. She and her husband were very loyal supporters of the Wednesday Group, and I will never forget all the help they gave to me over the years. Margaret worked tremendously hard on the day of our annual "Candlelight Carol Service" decorating the tree in church, the window ledges and putting the candles around the church and on tables where people would sit in the evening during the service. She had a great sense of humour and when amusing things happened at Wednesday Group, Margaret would laugh until tears streamed down her face! We really enjoyed her company.

Sadly, ill health prevented Margaret attending church in recent years and when her husband Mick passed away, she moved into Abacus Care Home. She set her room out beautifully there.

Margaret was a lady who worked quietly and achieved a lot for us. Thank you, Margaret. God Bless and Rest in Peace now.

*Margaret Clark*

+ + + + +

Memories are the loveliest things  
They last from day to day.  
They can't get lost, they don't wear out  
and can't be given away.

## Church Chuckles

### More from the Church Notice Board

On a church bulletin during the minister's illness: GOD IS GOOD; Dr. Hargreaves is better.

The pastoral committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30p.m. Please use the back door.

The 1991 Spring Council Retreat will be held May 10 and 11.

The congregation is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?". Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.

The music for today's service was all composed by George Friedrich Handel in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth.

A song fest was held at the Methodist church Wednesday.

Today's Sermon: How Much Can a Man Drink? with hymns from a full choir.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

3. Finely chop shallot and sauté in oil until soft. Add the peas and crème fraîche, adding black pepper and lemon zest.
4. Flake the cooked salmon into pieces and mix into sauce along with the cooked pasta, also adding some of the saved pasta water if required to make a smooth consistency.
5. Stir gently until sauce thickens. Adjust seasoning adding lemon juice and garnish with chopped parsley or dill.

*Gill Bentley*

+ + + + +

### Quotes about food .....

Good food, good company, great memories. *Unknown*

If you can't feed one hundred people, then feed just one.

*Mother Teresa*

If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with him.... The people who give you their food give you their heart.

*Cesar Chavez*

Life Expectancy would grow by leaps and bounds if green vegetables smelled as good as bacon.

*Doug Larson*

### Captions and Puns .....

1. "Lettuce romaine friends forever"
2. "Life is better with a sprinkle of love"
3. "Donut worry, be happy and eat more donuts!"
4. "I'm on a seafood diet. I see food and I eat it!"
5. "You're the apple of my pie."
6. "I'm a-peeling to your taste buds."

5. Using a small palette knife or the back of a spoon, spread a thin layer of the whipped cream on the bottom of the lined pan. Cover as much of the cream as possible with a layer of wafers, filling any gaps with broken wafers.

6. Continue layering whipped cream and wafers until you run out or reach the top of the tin, ending with a layer of wafers. Gently cover the surface with cling film and refrigerate (or freeze) for at least 6 to 8 hours, or preferably overnight.

7. Remove the cake from the refrigerator prior to serving and peel off the cling film. Place a serving plate over the tin and invert the cake onto the plate. Carefully remove the tin and cling film lining.

8. Lightly dust with cocoa powder, if using. Cut the cake into slices with a long-serrated knife and serve. The cake will keep, lightly wrapped with cling film, in the refrigerator for up to 3 days.

Terry Butler

## Salmon Pasta

A quick and tasty light meal for two

### Ingredients:

2 salmon fillets  
180g Penne Pasta  
1 x banana shallot  
Drizzle of light oil  
2 handfuls of frozen petit pois  
Zest and juice of half a lemon  
Chopped parsley or dill  
6 tbsp Crème Fraiche

### Method:

1. Place salmon fillets on a sheet of greased foil and season with salt and pepper. Cook in oven 180° for 10 minutes
2. Cook pasta in salted boiling water until al dente saving some pasta water before draining.

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING conference: *"The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."*

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Ushers will eat latecomers.

Tuesday at 4PM there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.

Faith supper: prayer and medication to follow.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

A drunken man gets on the bus late one night, staggers up the aisle, and sits next to an elderly woman. She looks the man up and down and says, "I've got news for you - you're going straight to hell!"

The man jumps up out of his seat and shouts, "Good heavens, I'm on the wrong bus!"

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

If clergymen can be defrocked and lawyers debarred, doesn't it follow that:

electricians can be delighted:

musicians denoted or decomposed:

models deposed:

dry cleaners depressed:

laundry workers could decrease (eventually becoming depressed and depleted):

bed-makers will be debunked:

organ donors will be delivered:

On a more positive note, though, perhaps we can hope politicians will be devoted.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

### Pause for thought!

The world is composed of givers and takers.

The takers may eat better, but the givers sleep better.

Submitted by Terry

## A Salutory Lesson

A pet shop owner had a sign on his door that read "Puppies for Sale."

A little boy entered the store and asked, "How much for a puppy?"

"Anywhere from £30 to £50," said the owner.

The little boy reached in his pocket and pulled out some change. "I only have £2.37," he said, "but can I at least look at them?"

The shop keeper smiled and whistled. Out of the back room came Lady, the mother dog, followed by five teeny, tiny balls of fur.

One puppy lagged far behind the others. Immediately the boy singled out the lagging, limping puppy and said, "What's wrong with that little fellow?"

The shop keeper explained that the puppy didn't have a hip socket. "It's worthless," he said. "It will always be lame."

Grabbing the limping pup into his arms, the boy exclaimed, "This is the puppy I want to buy!"

The shop keeper snorted. "Don't be silly! You don't want to buy that little runt." Then he hesitated, seeing the disappointment on the small boy's face. "Well," he said slowly, "If you really want him, I'll just give him to you."

The boy looked straight into the owner's eyes and said, "I don't want you to give him to me. That pup is worth every bit as much as all the other puppies and I'll pay full price. In fact, I'll give you £2.37 now, and 50 pence a month until I have him paid for."

The shop keeper countered, "You really don't want to buy a cripple, do you? He's never going to be able to run and jump and play with you like the other puppies."

To his surprise, the young boy reached down and rolled up his trouser leg to reveal a badly twisted, crippled left leg supported by a big metal brace.

The lad looked up at the shop keeper and softly replied, "Well, I don't run so well myself, and the little puppy will need someone who understands."

Terry Butler

## RECIPE CORNER

### Chocolate-Cranberry Freezer Cake

Cranberry and chocolate make a wonderful combination. Here, a jammy, vanilla-scented cranberry compote is folded into stiffly whipped cream and layered with crispy chocolate wafer biscuits, an ideal summer dessert.

Preparation time: 15 minutes. Cooking time: 15 minutes.

Serves: 8 (or 10 if giving what I call mean portions, but then I'm greedy).

#### Ingredients:

250gm Cranberries, (fresh or frozen)

100gm Granulated Sugar

125ml Water

1 tbsp plus 1tsp Vanilla Extract

500ml Double Cream

60gm Icing Sugar

40 2-inch crispy Chocolate Wafer Biscuits.

Cocoa Powder, for dusting (optional)

#### Instructions:

**1.** Cook the cranberries, granulated sugar, and water in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat until the mixture boils. Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer until most of the cranberries have burst and the liquid has reduced, about 10 minutes.

**2.** Off the heat, add 1 tablespoon of the vanilla extract and stir to combine. Let cool to room temperature before using. To speed up the cooling, transfer the compote to a small bowl and refrigerate.

**3.** Line a 9-by-3-inch loaf tin with cling film so that it hangs slightly over the sides of the pan.

**4.** Using a handheld or stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat the cream, icing sugar, and the remaining 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract on medium-high speed until stiff peaks form. With a rubber spatula, gently fold the cooled compote into the cream.

Tilley also has plans for a future one, possibly in 2026, which again will be fun, and community led and will feature the 'Burton Bollards' – watch this space or should I say keep your eye on the bollards in Burton !

Her fame is spreading, and she mentioned that she is doing a trail of “bees” in Chelmsford this summer. I have told my grandson to look out for them because he goes to school in Chelmsford!

We thanked Tilley for her wonderful talk which included slides on her laptop, and we were able to give her a small donation for the charity MIND. She is a very talented artist, an inspirational speaker, and a wonderful organiser of events. Burton is lucky to have her working so hard for the town.

After the meeting we were able to share refreshments and talk informally to Tilley. We wish her every success for the future.

*Margaret Clark*

## **Wednesday Group**

### **Dates for your diary .....**

Wednesday 11 June – Dennis Entertains (*A musical afternoon*)

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July - Paul Newsham  
*'There Will Never Be Another You'*

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August – AGM & Cakes

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September – Rodney Paul  
*'The Coldest Place on Earth'*

## **The Midnight Swim**

A number of years ago my husband and I were staying with my brother and his wife who lived very near to the coast. My brother and I have always loved swimming in the sea. We had both married non-swimmers who definitely preferred looking at the sea rather than being in it!

I, with my brother, were still young enough at that time, to think what fun it would be, on that particular full moon, star-lit evening, to go for a midnight swim. So off we set with the caution that I was not to shriek! Seemingly I was inclined to do that when my warm body first encountered the less than warm sea water. We were sure to be the only ones on a deserted beach at that time of night, so it was possible that a late evening stroller, taking a walk, might think that a shriek could mean someone was being attacked.

With the car parked and swimming gear on, my brother and I ran onto the beach. All was well until my feet encountered something cold, wet and slippery, gleaming an odd greenish colour. What HAD I stepped on? I clapped my hand over my mouth and made some muffled noise that attracted my brother's attention. (His longer legs had put him a little ahead of me.) As the moon shed its silvery light he could see that I had found a patch of seaweed to tread on. He pointed out that this beach was well known for not having seaweed on it, but somehow his sister had found the only patch there was and put her feet on it! Swimming on our backs we were able to gaze up at the sky and marvel afresh at God's creation of the moon and the stars that we so clearly could see.

Psalm 8 talks of the wonders of His creation, the moon and the stars, yet in the vastness of His whole creation, He thinks and cares so much for us as individuals.

After the swim we arrived back home rather damp but exhilarated by our sea dip. I also felt rather smug, as in spite of the provocation of walking onto something slimy, I had not shrieked!

*Aileen Westwood*



## WEDNESDAY GROUP

### Burton Trails by Tilley Bancroft

It was a lovely sunny Springtime afternoon when we met on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April. I opened the meeting with notices about our future events and advertised the VE Day Tea at church on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Our opening poem was entitled 'Daffodils' which reflected the gifts of Spring, counting our blessings and thanking God for the beauty of the Spring.

I then introduced Tilley Bancroft who had come to talk to us about the Burton Trails. Her enthusiasm shone through from the very beginning of her talk. It was obvious that Tilley wanted to make the most of Burton's rich heritage and bring together businesses, schools, community groups and artists. Her initial idea in 2018 was having a swan sculpture trail and planning began. Sadly, the project was thwarted by the pandemic and it was uncertain whether the event could take place. With determination and a lot of support the team carried on getting ready to put their plan into action. In the summer of 2020 Burton had the 'Swans Art Trail'. We all remembered the 25 swan sculptures that were placed around the town. I know that I enjoyed taking my grandchildren around the trail and taking photographs of them by each swan. They enjoyed following the trail and the joy of ticking off each swan on the map as we found them. Tilley passed round a beautiful, illustrated book she had produced entitled 'Burton Swans Art Trail 2020'. All the swans were remarkable, and she drew our attention to certain ones. The 'Graffiti Me' one, which they thought may be a risk because of what people might write, contained a thought-provoking poem:

*No one owns the water  
No one owns the land  
No one owns the ocean  
No one owns the sand  
These are given by our mother  
The planet provides for free  
Only by the hands of the greedy  
Does earth require a fee*

The children enjoyed the swan with Lego on and made their own designs on it. I think this involved providing a lot of Lego! The children also enjoyed looking at themselves in the 'Mirror Swan'. Outside Sainsbury's was the 'Carousel Swan' designed by Heather Horsley. Heather is a talented Burton artist and is a direct descendant of Albert and Sid Howell, the talented father and son artists, who worked for Orton and Spooner. Wednesday Group members will remember Elaine Pritchard's interesting talk about the history of Orton and Spooner in Burton and the making of the carousel horses. Tilley also designed her own swan entitled "Duet" which was sponsored by The Brewhouse Arts Centre. She and her team certainly brought happiness to the town. After being kept inside during lockdown families could get out and about following the trail in the fresh air. The project also raised money for the Burton and District YMCA.

Two years later in 2022, Tilley and her team had worked incredibly hard again to bring the community together to produce a trail of 'Carousel Horses' which ran for 10 weeks. The Carousel Horses were chosen to pay tribute to the Burton firm Orton and Spooner and their designing of Carousel Horses. In autumn 2022 the horses were auctioned to raise money for Burton and District MIND, the mental health charity.

In summer 2024 another trail appeared in Burton. This time the theme was "Barrels", showcasing artwork and heritage. This trail was Burton's first fully 3D sculpture trail featuring 14 giant barrels painted by local artists. It celebrated the importance of brewing in the town. The trail welcomed over 30,000 visitors and was a real success, adding more than £600,000 to the local economy through additional spending in cafes, restaurants and shops. Each of the 14-barrel sculptures were hand painted by artists with designs including local people, landmarks, hops, bees, biscuits and even outer space! These sculptures too were auctioned off at the end of the event.

Tilley is certainly an inspirational lady who has created, along with her supporters, three amazing Burton Trails.