The background is a watercolor-style illustration. It features a scalloped, wavy edge at the bottom, transitioning from a light tan and brown wash to a white and grey wash. Several bright red poppies with black centers are scattered across the composition. The overall style is soft and artistic.

November
2024

Stratton Team Ministry
Seeking, Sharing, and Serving God Together
www.strattonteamministry.co.uk

DD DAY

80th Anniversary Year

STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY

Rector: Reverend Elveen Mead [Usual Day off Friday]

Curate: Reverend Charlotte Stansfield [Usual Day off Friday]

Lay Minister: Lisa Lodwick
Alison Burston
Dan Read

Church Administrator Georgina Martin 826505
Email: stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

St. Margaret's Church and St Mary Magdalene Church

Mrs June Lewis 822954
Mr Ian Jones 07769703385
Mrs Diane Whitford 824339

Deputy Wardens

Mr David Horne 07717447855
Mr Richard Pflieger 828367

St Leonards Church

Mrs Liz Hillman 762935
Mr Chris Pope

Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers & DBS Lead Recruiters

Dr Mike Boshier 07799835437
Mrs Mary Boshier

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL for St. Margaret's and St Mary Magdalene

Mrs Rosalind Mitchell (Secretary) 764146
Mrs Diane Whitford
(Deputy Secretary of St Mary Magdalene) 824339

St Leonards

Mr Michael Curtis
(PCC secretary St Leonards)

LOCAL CHURCH CONTACTS

Stratton Methodist Church, 829335
St Mary's R C Church, The Presbytery, Swindon 535089

November – a Time to Remember

Dear Friends

A few days after the fireworks of 5th November, comes Remembrance, a solemn time when we remember the sacrifices made by so many servicemen and women over recent decades. If you drop in to St Leonard's churchyard in early November, you will see a stunning display of dozens of hand-knitted poppies to mark this season. But why remember?



This remembering is of course not simply about recalling information, as a student does when taking an exam. To remember is to recall important events that have happened, to reflect on how they have shaped our present, as a country and as individuals, and to consider how we might wish them to impact our future.

The word *zachor*, meaning “to remember”, appears 169 times in various forms in the Old Testament. God commands the people of Israel to remember decisive events in their history. It was a first in the ancient world for a people to recognise that human history reveals God's will and purpose.

But how on earth can we see God's purposes in the devastating conflicts of history and of the present day? On the day you read this, whatever the news headlines are, it is all too easy to think that God is absent from those situations. It is hard to understand why God does not – in the words of the Psalmist – “tear the sky open and come down” (Ps. 144: 5) to intervene.

God's ways are not our ways and there are many things we will not understand this side of eternity. But as Christians, we believe in a God of compassion and justice, who loved humankind so much that he sent his Son to live among us, and that the day will come when Jesus will return to put the world to rights.

The prophet Isaiah writes about a future time when peace shall reign: “God will teach us his ways.... The nations shall make their swords into ploughs, and their spears into hooks for trimming trees; nations will no longer fight other nations, nor will they train for war any more” (Isaiah 2: 3,4). How we long for that day!

Meanwhile, as Remembrance Day comes around again and we remember conflicts past and present, we think of those near and far whose lives are affected by injury, trauma and bereavement in past generations and in the present.

Let's not grow weary of living lives of peace amongst each other, our neighbours and communities. May we be steadfast in prayer – for victims of war, for our political leaders, for peacemakers, for relief workers and journalists – and may we continue to place our trust in Jesus, who has conquered death once and for all, while we wait for the day when he will return to establish his kingdom of peace on earth.

Blessings

Charlotte



Come and
join us for:



Activities

Songs

Food

Crafts

Games

Stories

SATURDAY SCENE

Caring for God's Creation



At St Margaret's Centre

(Kenwin Close, off Ermin street, Stratton St. Margaret)

Saturday 9th November

@ 4pm

for more information Please contact us at

✉ stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

☎ 01793 826505

www.facebook.com/stmsaturdayscene



FREE!

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH SOUTH MARSTON

Welcomes you to a

Community Coffee Morning



Just drop in

Come and Join Us for Refreshments

(including bacon butties and delicious cakes)

In the Village Hall

10 - 12

Every third Saturday in the month

Next date 16th November



St Leonard's Church Stanton

Hosts Coffee Morning now at

Stanton House Hotel

10:15am - noon

On Wednesday

20th of November 2024

Everyone Welcome



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bristol

Mothers' Union Swindon Deanery Branch

**Our next meeting will be on Friday November 8th
and it will be in St Margaret's Centre at 2.30pm**

We will be preparing for the

**16 Days of Activism against Gender Based
Violence and we have a speaker from the
'Bobby Van' coming to tell us about our
personal safety.**

Do come and join us.



For more info, visit the Bristol MU website

www.mubristol.co.uk

 **WE SEE YOU.**
THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

- raising awareness of modern slavery

Anne Pope - MU Swindon Deanery Branch Contact



MU PROJECTS NOVEMBER 2024

Women's Empowerment and Equality

Mothers' Union have recently launched a new campaign, calling for Women's Literacy to be given a high priority in the world. The government is committed to the promotion of the education of girls, but **480 million women around the world can't read or write.**

Empowering women can lead to a reduction in the Domestic Abuse and Violence, particularly in communities where this is inherent.

Find out more about the campaign: '**EMPOWER HER LITERACY**' at mothersunion.org/empowerherliteracy



As ever, we join with the **United Nations Campaign for the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Abuse** which begins on November 25th, (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) - **10th December** (Human Rights Day) - each year



for more info go to www.mothersunion.org/riseup

Jacky Fredrickson

MU Diocesan President, Bristol

jacky.mubristoldiocese@gmail.com

cont.....

Domestic Abuse

Useful info, free App, phone numbers & websites

The 'Bright Sky' is a free App. It provides practical support and information on how to respond to domestic abuse. It is for anyone experiencing domestic abuse, or who is worried about someone else. Importantly, on the phone home screen, it displays as a weather app to avoid suspicion.

ANI - Victims of Domestic Abuse can access immediate help from police or pharmacy by asking for **ANI** (code for Action Needed Immediately)

National UK Domestic Abuse Helpline
Free helpline, 24/7. Online
Live chat support and British Sign Language options.
Number: 0808 2000 247
Website: <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk>

Women's Aid - online live chat at womensaid.org.uk
email:- helpline@womensaid.org.uk
Swindon Women's Aid tel: 01793 610610

Galop National LGBT Domestic Abuse website

<https://lighthousevictimcare.org>

Advice Line: 0808 999 5428

email

help@galop.org.uk

and you can find many more agencies for help and advice, online



Stopping Violence
Stopping Poverty
Stopping Injustice

www.mothersunion.org

Midday Prayers 2024: Transformation – Now! November

Women's equality and empowerment

Monday – Women's equality and empowerment

'The Lord is my shepherd I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures, he
leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.' *Psalm*
23:1-3

When our lives are dull and dry, the colour
drained by the demands we face:

Lord, lead us to pastures green.
Transform our parched souls into
abundant places of fruitfulness
with your verdant refreshment.

Shelter us in leafy shade.
Restore us in times of
dryness by the waters of the
Spirit as we soak in your
Word.

Plant us in fertile places.
Transform our barrenness
into lives that will produce a
vibrant harvest of faith.

**Surely your goodness and mercy
will colour all the days of our
lives, until we dwell in your house
forevermore. Amen**

Tuesday – Created equal by God

‘Encourage one another and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing.’

1 Thessalonians 5:11

**God of transformation who has created us
equal in your image, show us how to value
all people and to work towards equality for
all.**

Help us to appreciate each
other's unique qualities.
Help us to treasure each
other's special gifts.

May we be slow to judge
and quick to forgive;
ready to treat others as
we wish for ourselves.

May relationships be transformed
as we seek each other's good by
encouragement and support;
sharing together the love of Christ.

**God of transformation, who has
created us in your image, help us
to accept each other
unconditionally, as we live out
your call to love our neighbour as
ourselves.**

Amen

Wednesday – Gender justice matters

‘Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t get discouraged and give up.’

Galatians 6:9

Loving Lord, nurture us with your goodness and fill us with joy that our lives may produce the fruit of transformation.

What a privilege to serve,
to share your love through
word and action. What a
joy to know that what we
say can bring change in
others. What a blessing to
see, hearts touched by the
riches of your grace. What
a harvest to be, when
seeds we sow produce
fruitfulness.

John Birch

**Loving Lord, transform us
by your Spirit that our lives
may yield a fruitful harvest
of blessing.**

Amen

Thursday – Opportunities for empowerment

‘Live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way:
bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of
God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious
might.’

Colossians 1:10-11

**Lord, we would grow with
you** New shoots reaching out
hands stretched upward like leaves
newly formed soaking up your
light and warmth
Lord, we would grow with you

**Lord, we would grow with
you** In sunshine and rain in
darkness and light in cold days
and summer days from Springtime
to Winter
Lord, we would grow with you

Lord, we would grow with you
And bring forth fruit that
is pleasing to you fed by
your living water giving
sustenance to others
Lord, we would grow with you.

Amen

©John Birch

Friday – Faith in Action

‘Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.’

Psalm 126:5

**Lord of fruitful transformation
we celebrate your goodness
with songs of joy.**

Lord, fill us with the compassion of Christ,
who wept over the plight of Jerusalem:

Transform our tears of concern into action
that will enable communities to thrive.

Transform our tears of concern into prayer
that our action may be Spirit-led.

We pray for a harvest of joy over
families who are living well.

We pray for a harvest of joy over lives
which are being made whole.

We pray for a harvest of joy over
hearts who respond to God’s love.

**Lord of fruitful transformation
we celebrate your goodness
with songs of joy. Amen**

Saturday - The goodness of God

“I know the plans *and* thoughts that I have for you,” says the Lord,
“plans for peace *and* well-being and not for disaster, to
give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (AMP)

**Gracious God, make known to
us your plans for peace and
wellbeing; to bring lasting
transformation.**

Lord, we pray for lives to be transformed into
ones of self respect and sufficiency through
effective use of your resources.

We pray for families to be transformed
into strong and loving households as
they explore your ways for relationship.

We pray for communities to be transformed
into ones of resilience and prosperity
through trust and cooperation.

**Gracious God, guide us in
your plans for peace and
wellbeing; to transform
lives for good.**

Amen

November



3 rd November		All Saint's Day	
St Margaret's Church		St Leonard's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church
9:30am	6pm	9:30am	10am
Holy Communion Service	Rosemary Service	Sunday Morning Worship	Family Service
10 th November		REMEMBRANCE	
St Margaret's Church		St Leonard's Church	St Mary Magdalene Church
10:45am		10:55am	10:00
Remembrance Service		Remembrance Service	Remembrance Service
17 th November		Second Sunday before Advent	
St Mary Magdalene Church		10am	Sunday Morning Team Worship
24 th November		Christ the King	
St Margaret's Church		St Leonard's Church	Coleview Community Centre
9:30am		9:30am	11am
Sunday Morning Worship		Holy Communion Service	Holy Communion Service

Please see our website for the most up to date information www.strattonteamministry.co.uk

We will endeavor to give as much notice as possible to any changes but that may not always be possible.

St Margaret's Church Stratton



at

St Margaret's Centre
Every Thursday

9:30am - 11:30am

Sundays after Church Services

Tea also available



Bumps & Babes

ARE YOU A NEW
OR EXPECTANT PARENT?

Register Now

forms.gle/fM4NesmSPYWTNuiC7

Come and join Stratton Team Ministry for our Bumps and Babes group on Tuesdays.

Bumps & Babes is a place for expectant parents and parents with babies (up to one year old*) to meet and chat over a coffee – sharing in the experiences of pregnancy and the joys and challenges of the early months of parenthood.

Mats and toys are available for you to play with your babies, as well as time for a few songs!

We are joined by guests each a month to share with us about subjects from weaning to breastfeeding; faith to reusable nappies!

Register for your place now via the link or complete a form on arrival – we look forward to welcoming you!

When: Tuesdays 11.15-12.15
(term time only)

Where: St Margaret's Centre,
Kenwin Close, SN3 4NY

Cost: Free

Contact Us & Useful Links



Bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com



www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/explore/kids-and-youth/bumps-babes/



Register for your place now
<https://forms.gle/fM4NesmSPYWTNuiC7>



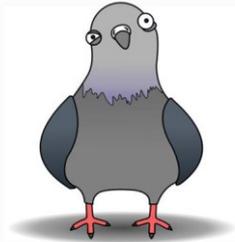
Bumps and Babes St Margaret's Swindon

jokes

November Nonsense

Advert: Rottweiler for sale. Very fond of people. Reluctant to let go!

Husband: It says in this article that over 5,000 camels are used each year to make paint brushes. Wife: Isn't it amazing what they can teach animals to do nowadays.



Speaking about the droppings of pigeons in the town, a council official said: "We must try not to dodge the issue."



I went to the local chemist and said: Have you any poison that will kill mice? He said: "No, Have you tried Boots?" I said: "I want to poison them, not kick them to death."



As a child in Kent the lack of punctuation on the church collection box filled me with wonder and awe: "Thanks be to God This Box Is Emptied Daily."

Gillian Bailey, SWA, London, Independent

Anthony Richards won the Daily Telegraph's competition to provide the best 50 word definition of Englishness. His poetic entry included the lines.

He views the Channel as a trench
Laughs at the Germans, hates the French
Though docile on his starchy diet
He'll rush around to quell a riot
He hates a fuss, seldom complains
Accepts poor service and late trains

Daily Telegraph

A small boy came home after his first day at a new school and said to his mother: "The teacher asked me if I had any brothers and sisters who might be coming to school." "That's nice of her to take such an interest in us. Did you say that you were an only child?" replied the mother. "Yes," the boy replied. "And all she said was thank goodness."

A clergyman named Jordan had a son at college. The son was about to take his final examinations and naturally the father asked the boy to let him know as soon as possible how he got on. One day the father received a telegram which read: 'Hymn 254, verse-five, Last two lines.' Looking up the reference in the Hymn Book he read: 'Sorrow Vanquished, labour ended, Jordan passed.'

Questions:

"Now how much would you like to contribute to the Indian Relief Fund, Mrs. Custer?"

"What do you think about bathing beauties?" "I don't know-I've never bathed any."

What is worse than when it's raining cats and dogs? When it's hailing taxis.

If you can't repeat gossip - what else can you do with it?

Why can't a bicycle stand up? Because it's two tired.

Which side is it best to have the handle of a teacup on? The outside.

Do Arabs dance sheik to sheik?

You really couldn't make it up:

The instructions with my new steam iron include the warning: "Never steam iron the garment you are wearing"

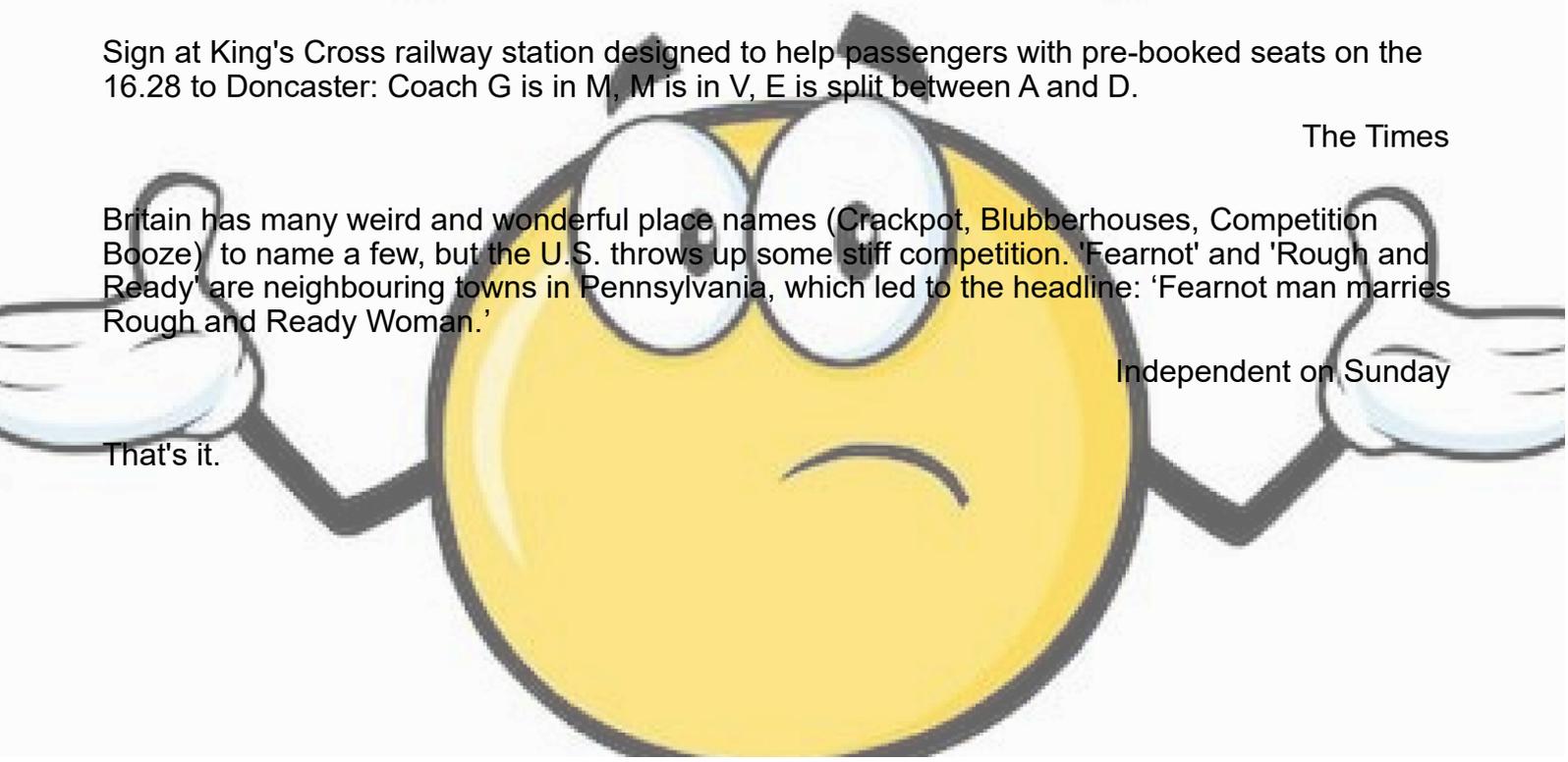
Sign at King's Cross railway station designed to help passengers with pre-booked seats on the 16.28 to Doncaster: Coach G is in M, M is in V, E is split between A and D.

The Times

Britain has many weird and wonderful place names (Crackpot, Blubberhouses, Competition Booze) to name a few, but the U.S. throws up some stiff competition. 'Fearnot' and 'Rough and Ready' are neighbouring towns in Pennsylvania, which led to the headline: 'Fearnot man marries Rough and Ready Woman.'

Independent on Sunday

That's it.



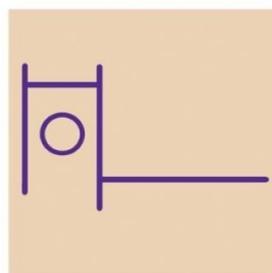
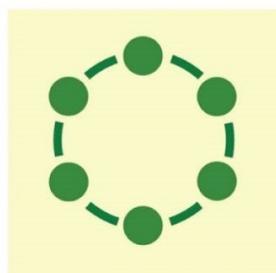
The word "GIVING" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Above the letter "V", there are three stylized coins stacked on top of each other, with the top one slightly offset to the right.

You may be aware that many charities and organisations are struggling at this time, this includes churches.

Great News! You can now sign up to join the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) online. There is a link for this on the Giving page of our website: <https://www.strattonteamministry.co.uk/giving/>

If you haven't considered the PGS before, we would ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. It's very easy to sign up and it works in a similar way to a Direct Debit (that it is intended to replace), in that a regular payment authorised by you goes out either weekly, monthly or yearly straight to the church. It is perfectly safe and can be stopped or changed at any time.

PGS is a great way to give to the work and mission of St Margaret's Church. Donations given through PGS come straight to the Church, there are no admin fees or bank charges for us to pay. 41 people have now signed up to do this - Thank you



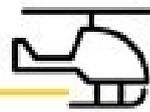
TM

PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME



Recycling @ St Margaret's Centre

**RECYCLE YOUR
CRISP PACKETS HERE!**



RECYCLE FOR



**WILTSHIRE
AIR AMBULANCE**



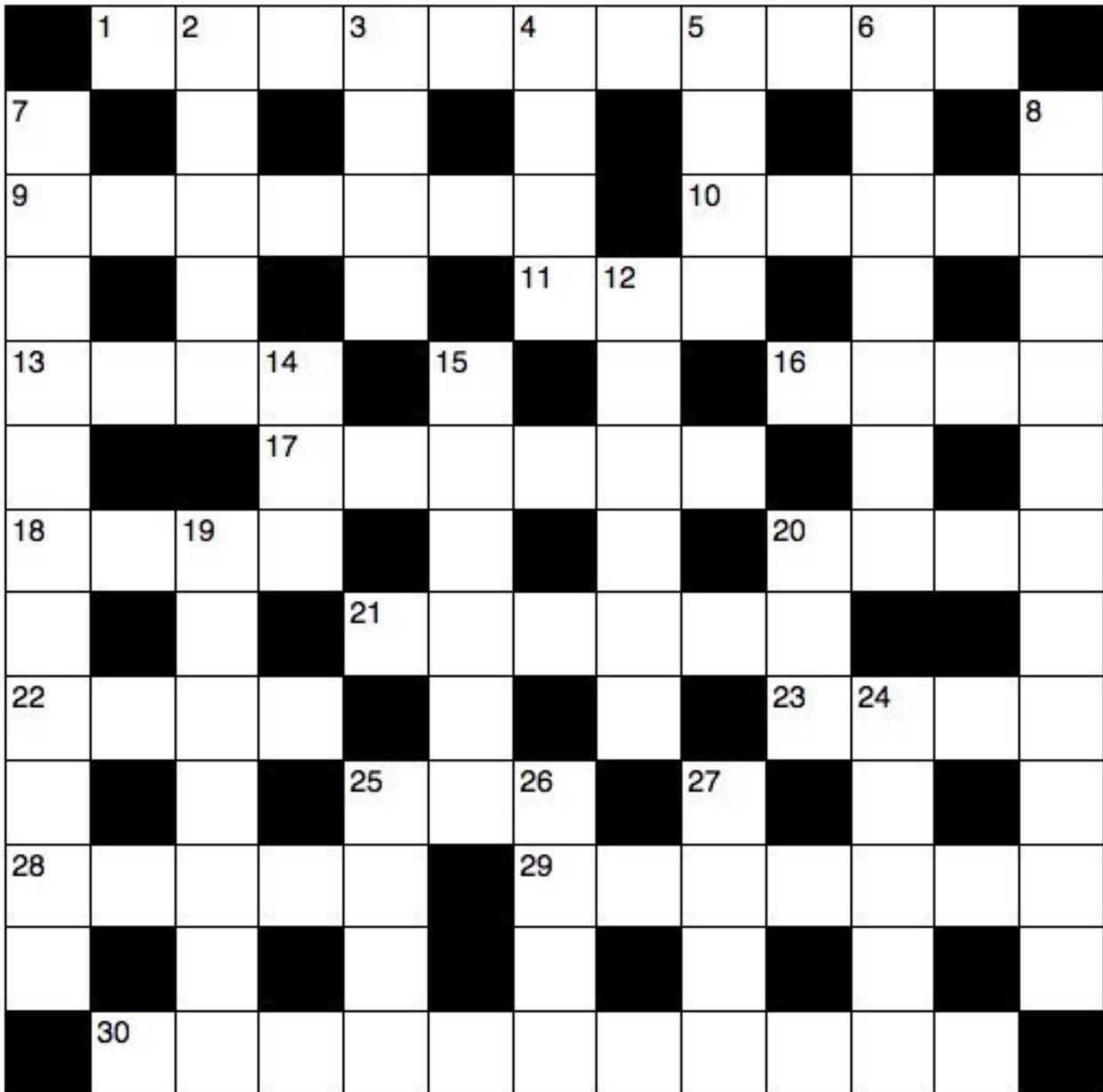
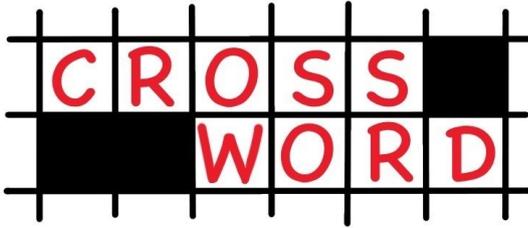
In support of

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

ACCEPTED WASTE



Any brand of EMPTY medicine blister packets



Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)

Across

- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across

Hello everyone,

Swindon Food Collective is your local independent food bank that collects and redistributes donated non-perishable food and non-food items to those in need. We help individuals and families that are finding it hard to feed themselves for a variety of reasons such as low wages, low income, family crisis, delayed benefit payments, redundancy, bereavement or sickness.



We currently operate 11 Food Distribution Centres in and around Swindon.

Should you wish to support our Harvest 2024 collection then please read below for further information.

HARVEST DONATIONS 2024

WHAT WE DON'T NEED:

We do not need pasta, cereals and shower gel.

WHAT WE DO NEED:

Regular sized Tins, Jars, Bottles, Cartons or Packets of the following:

"Potatoes; Meat; Fish; Tomatoes; Soup; Vegetables; Fruit; Puddings; Pasta Sauce; Cereals; Small Jars of Coffee; Tea (40 bags); Small Bags of Sugar (500g); Biscuits; 1L Bottles of Squash; Washing Up Liquid; Toothpaste; Laundry Pods; 2 in 1 Shampoo & Conditioner; Male and Female Deodorants"

We hope you will be able to support us once again

On behalf of everyone who will benefit from your support this Harvest

THANK YOU.

Crossword Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Charioteers. 9, Immoral. 10, Cairo. 11, SAE. 13, Inns. 16, Firm. 17, Accuse. 18, East. 20, Ogam. 21, Judith. 22, Seba. 23, Msgr. 25, Den. 28, Inane. 29, Entreat. 30, Chrysoprase.

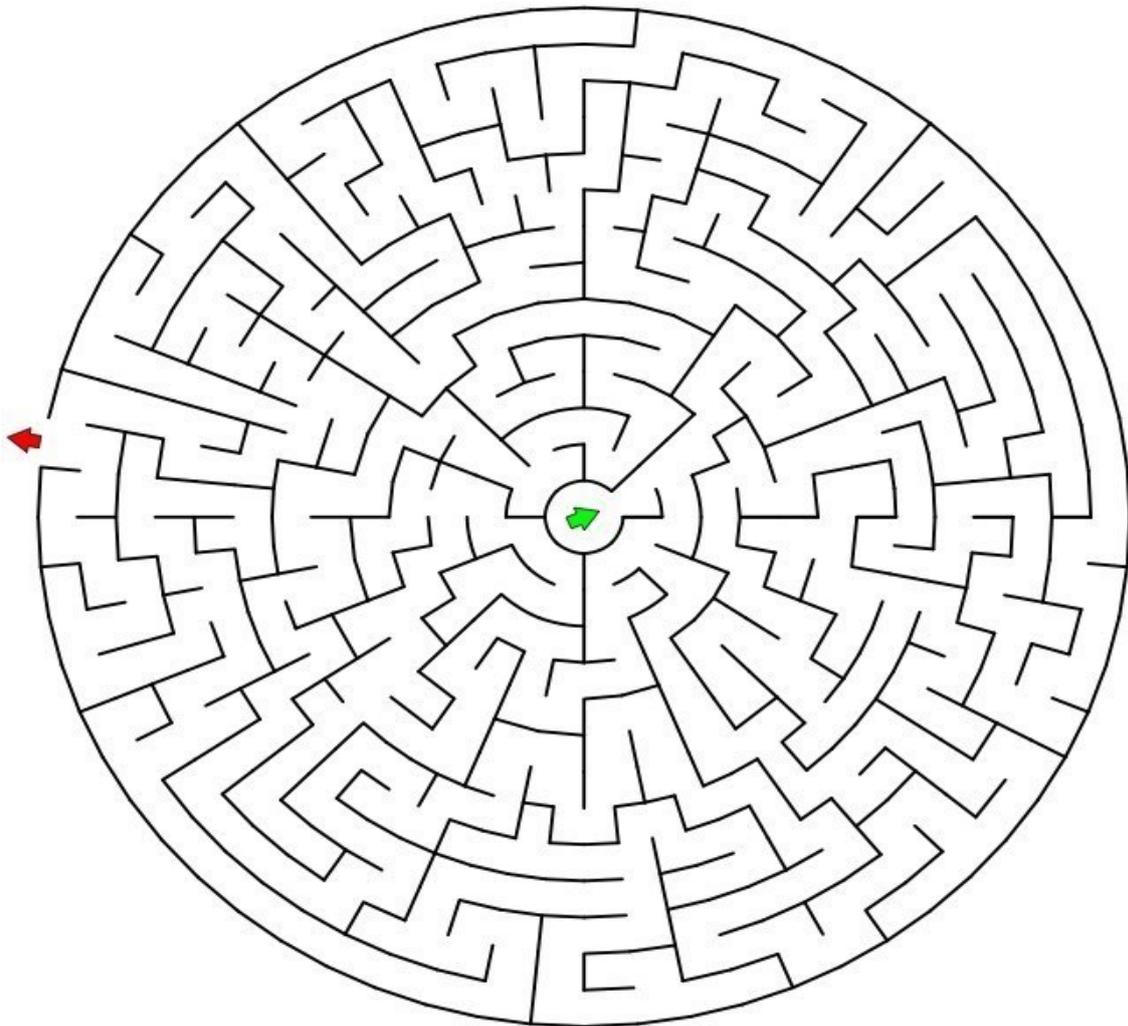
DOWN: 2, Human. 3, Rare. 4, Oils. 5, Ecce. 6, Raising. 7, Citizenship. 8, Commemorate. 12, Assail. 14, Sat. 15, Scouse. 19, Sabbath. 20, Ohm. 24, Seeds. 25, Deny. 26, Nero. 27, Star.

**STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE for
Articles and Information anytime before 15th November 2024**

Georgina Martin: Church Office,
Tel: 826505 St Margaret's Centre
Email: stmchurchoffice020@gmail.com

Also, by hand or call Georgina Martin on 07768 243675

Errors and omissions — while we do try to ensure that all details are correct, some things may slip through and we apologise for that.



PARISH DIRECTORY & CENTRE USERS
ORGANISATIONS

Babies & Toddlers	Georgina Martin	07768 243675
Bell Ringers	Wendy Sears	07769 788821
Boys' Brigade	Teresa Daghish	07796 925621
Brownies - Mon	Yvette Webster-May	825398
Bumps and Babes	Bekki	bumpsandbabes9@gmail.com
Cadley Dance	Maria Howse	824446
Centre Bookings	Richard Pflieger	828367
Choir	Geoff Walters	822006
Church Cleaning Rota	Pat England	822786
Coleview	Church Office	826505
Church Flowers	Richard Pflieger	828367
Mothers' Union Deanery Branch	Anne Pope	07790 730 685 email eannepope@gmail .com
FWO Envelopes	Ray England	822786
Gift Aid Sec.	David Horne	07717447855
Guide-Brownie Commissioner	Zoe Smith	831190
Music Group	Rob South	822811
Organists	Rob South	822811
	Geoff Walters	822006
Preschool	Hayley Woods, Supervisor	07816 547752
Wl. Stratton St Margaret	Mrs Covell	829900



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info@pearcefuneralservices.co.uk



Included in the Good Funeral Guide since 2011 in
recognition of our high standards of service.