

October
2024



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

The earth has produced its harvest.



May God, our God, bless us. Ps 67:6

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 |



Dear Friends,

Summer has drawn to a close and we have looked to new beginnings with the new academic year and the new Church year. Autumn has arrived and we will soon be seeing the colourful display of creation as the leaves start to change colour and fall, providing nutrients for the ground and the cycle of life within creation.

The beginning of September is the beginning of Creation Time; it is a season of celebration, "...where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created."

As we spend time outside, perhaps in the garden, walking in parks, hills and dales, or even by the sea, may we wonder again at the beauty of creation. May we be reminded of the enjoyment of being outside amongst trees and plants; may a song of praise or a whispered prayer come forth from our hearts for our Creator and the creation within which we live. May we again and again, rejoice at God's love that is shown to us through the beauty, the mystery and awesomeness of what is around us. May our lips sing the words of the Psalmist:

"May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.”

Psalm 104: 31-34

Take time to sit and ponder at the beauty of Creation with the changing of seasons and know that you are loved by the Almighty One who made the Ladybird and the Eagle.

Take time to wonder anew at the veins within a leaf and the colours of the sunset.

Ponder and praise.

Every blessing

Elveen





Season of Creation 2024 Prayer



Triune God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation,
Jesus Christ.



Amen.



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Bristol

Mothers' Union Swindon Deanery Branch

Our next meeting will be on Friday October 11th
and it will be in St Margaret's Centre at 2.30pm

It will be 'Your Choice.'

Please bring a favourite poem, picture, prayer
or anything that means something to you.

We will also be preparing for
Anti-Slavery Day on 18th October.

Do come and join us.

For more info, visit the Bristol MU website

www.mubristol.co.uk



www.mothersunion.org



- raising awareness of modern slavery

Anne Pope - MU Swindon Deanery Branch Contact



Stopping Violence
Stopping Poverty
Stopping Injustice

www.mothersunion.org

Weekly Prayers for October – **Social Justice**

Monday: Education for life

‘The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.’

Isaiah 35:1, 2

God of rebuilt people and rebuilt places you have plans for deserts and wilderness. Rebuild through education for all:

‘Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, The thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, Grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness.’

Isaiah 35: 6-8

God of transformation we look forward to what you will do with our lives and with grace on the journey of faith. Far we have come, far we must go.

Amen

From the Grace website archive

Tuesday: Hope for social justice

‘Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.’

John 15:13

Christ the true vine, beloved of the Father, we marvel at your selfless love; your supreme act of friendship for a helpless people, that we may have eternal life.

Love poured out on that cruel cross, a blood offering so we might go free.

Love poured out, infusing this world with rivers of grace and hope of rebirth.

Love poured out, and into these hearts, who drink from a stream that never runs dry.

© *John Birch*

Christ the true vine, beloved of the Father, we stand in awe of your supreme act of friendship; we are blessed that you call us your friends.

Amen

Wednesday: Prison work

'May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.'

Psalm 33:2-5, 21-22

Sing to the Lord a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy.

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

**The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.**

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

**In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.**

Thursday: Challenging social injustice

'Jesus led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.'

Mark 9:2-3

Chosen One, Beloved of the Father, lead us to the heights of your presence that we may behold your dazzling radiance.

**Bathe us in the rays of your glorious truth
that we may be transformed by your perfect love.**

**Open our ears to listen to your voice
that we may be transformed by your words of life.**

Then lead us on by the light of your presence, renewed in spirit and envisioned in faith; to works that bring lasting transformation in the world you have called us to serve.

Amen

Friday: A voice for the vulnerable

'We all are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.'

2 Corinthians 3:18

Take your canvas, God, and sketch on it a new life for me. Shape me, style me and shade me with your Spirit.

Paint over the old me with all my blemishes and flaws and then, with Jesus as your model draw my heart again and colour it with love. God, paint over the old me and draw me again so that I can see the world from your perspective. Then, after growth and in wisdom perhaps one day someone will look and see in me your masterpiece a portrait of the glory of Jesus.

Amen

© *Tony Burnham*

Saturday: Justice for Creation

'Then the One sitting on the throne said, "See! I am making all things new. Write, for these words are true and faithful."

Revelation 21:5 (NLV)

We pray for our beloved planet, scarred by conflict and natural disaster: bring healing to its lands and cleansing to its waters; bring justice to its peoples and peace to its nations; bring life for today and hope for the future.

God of all eternity, ignite in us, your people, the faith to believe that you will one day heal our broken world, and grow in us the perseverance to keep praying and working towards that day when your creation will once again be whole and free.

We ask all these things in the name of your matchless Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen

© *Lyndall Bywater*

October



6th October

Harvest

| St Margaret's Church | St Leonard's Church | St Mary Magdalene Church |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 9:30am | 9:30am | 10am |
| Holy Communion Service Harvest | Sunday Morning Worship | All Age Harvest Service |

13th October

20th Sunday after Trinity

| St Margaret's Church | St Mary Magdalene Church | St Leonard's Church |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 9:30am | 9:30am | 11am |
| Sunday Morning Worship | Holy Communion Service Harvest | Family Service Harvest |

20th October

21st Sunday after Trinity

| | | |
|----------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| St Margaret's Church | 10am | Sunday Morning Team Worship |
|----------------------|------|-----------------------------|

27th October

Last Sunday after Trinity

| 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

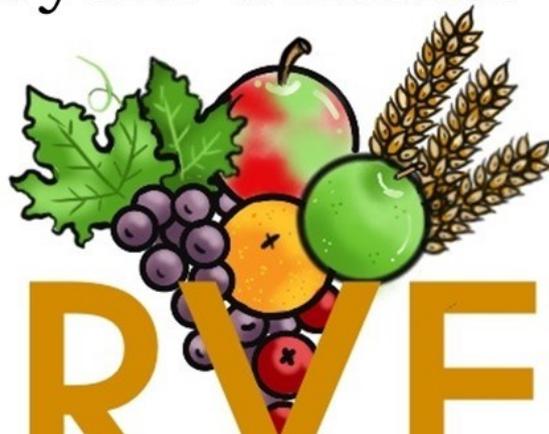
We will endeavour to give as much notice as possible to any changes but that may not always be possible.

St Mary Magdalene Church, South Marston



**All Age Harvest Service
Sunday 6th October at 10am**

Everyone welcome .



HARVEST

**St Leonard's
Church,
Stanton Fitzwarren**



**Family Harvest Service
Sunday 13th October at 11am**

Everyone welcome .



HARVEST

St Margaret's Church Stratton



at

St Margaret's Centre
Every Thursday

9:30am - 11:30am

Sundays after Church Services

Tea also available



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 _____

19th October

16th November



St Leonard's Church Stanton

Hosts Coffee Morning now at

Stanton House Hotel

10:15am - noon

On Wednesday

16th of October 2024

Everyone Welcome



Rossi Mitchell is our
speaker
is our speaker.

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

Back from Holidays:

Tony had never been on a cruise before, and he was now thinking it was the dumbest thing he had ever done in his life. He was stricken with violent seasickness and with every pitch and roll, he wondered how he was going to survive the remaining hours of his holiday on the ship. One of the crew came over to him and said: "Don't worry young fella. Nobody ever died of seasickness. 'Great!' said Tony. "You've just taken away my last hope of relief."

Doing the rounds of his barns in a remote country area, a farmer came across a parachutist who had landed in a bale of hay. "What happened?" asked the farmer. My chute failed to open." "Ah well if you'd asked the locals before making your jump they'd have told you that nothing round here opens on a Sunday.

As a coachload of tourists drove through Wiltshire the guide was pointing out places of interest. When they approached Stonehenge the guide announced: "This is Stonehenge, a megalithic monument dating from about 2800 B.C. It consisted originally of thirty upright stones, their tops linked by lintel stones to form a continuous circle about a hundred feet across. The uprights were built from local sandstone and each stone weighs around Twenty-six tons." At the back of the coach one tourist turned to his wife and said "Pretty impressive, huh?" 'Yes', she agreed. "But wouldn't you think they'd have built it further back from the main road."



Back to work:

A man arrived at work with both ears bandaged. "What happened to your ears?" asked his foreman. "Well, he explained, yesterday I was ironing a shirt when the phone rang and I accidentally answered with the iron." "That explains one ear but what about the other one?" "For goodness sake I had to call the doctor."

A young man hired by a supermarket, reported for his first day at work. The manager gave him a broom and told him to sweep the store. "But I'm a university graduate," he protested. "Oh I'm sorry," said the manager. "I didn't know that. Here give me the broom, I'll show you how."

Employee Evaluation Reports:

-  Since my last report he has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.
-  His men would follow him anywhere but only out of morbid curiosity.
-  A gross ignoramus- a hundred and forty four times worse than an ordinary ignoramus.
-  He has a knack of making strangers immediately.
-  This employee is not so much of a has-been but more of a definite won't be.
-  He brings joy to others when he leaves the room.
-  He would be out of his "depth in a puddle."
-  If you gave him a penny for his thoughts you'd get change.
-  It takes him two hours to watch sixty minutes.

And lastly a newly promoted boss decided to stamp his authority on the office by attaching a sign to his door that read: 'I'm the Boss.' A few days later a colleague took a phone call for him and relayed the message to him in front of the rest of the staff. "Your wife wants her sign back."

Bye.





GIVING

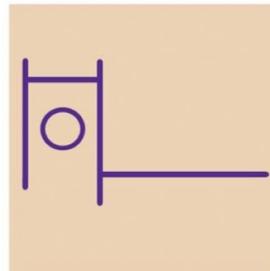
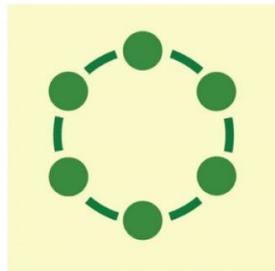
You may be aware that many charities and organisations are struggling at this time, this includes churches.

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**



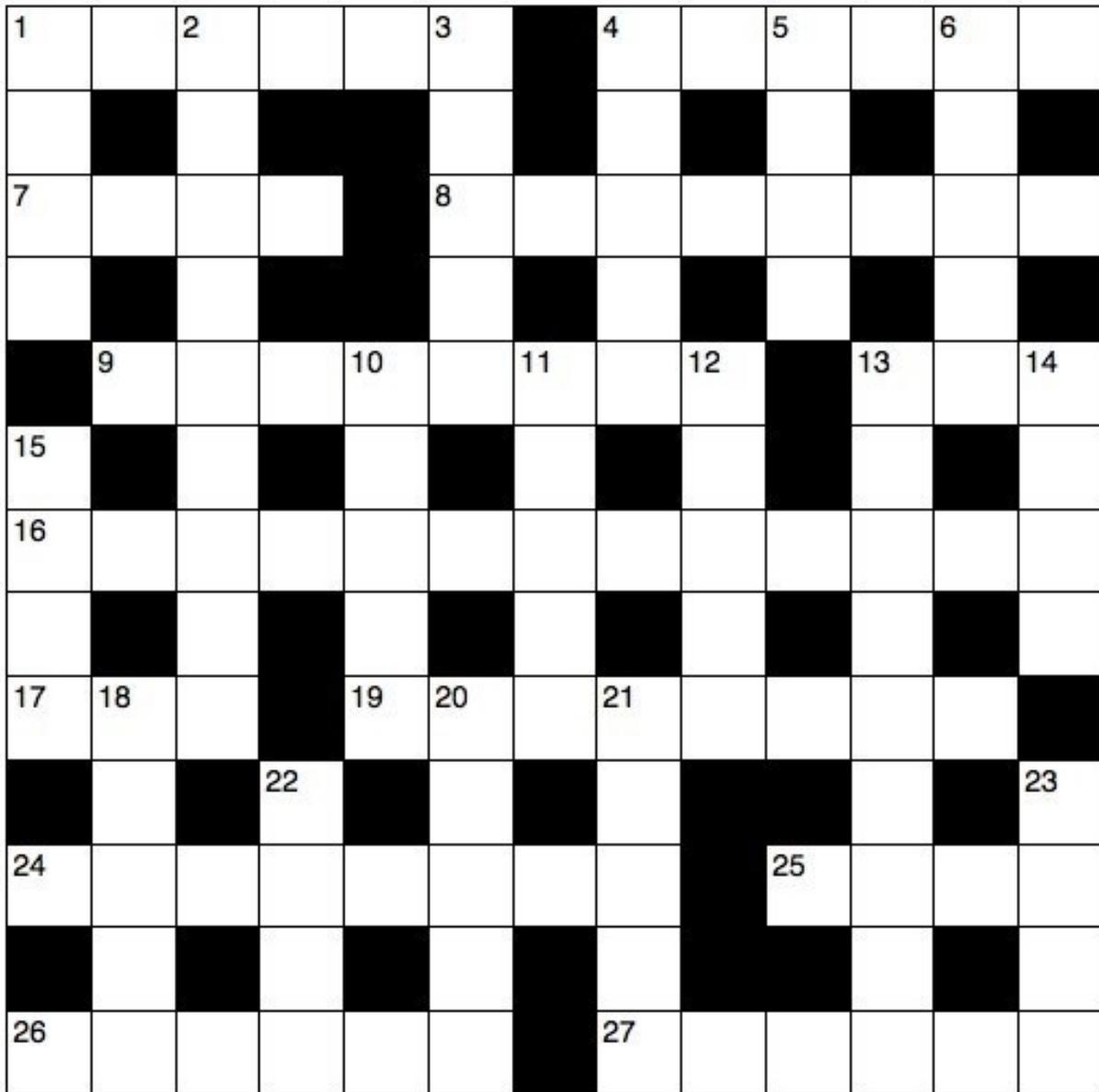
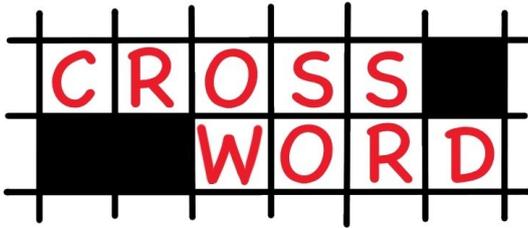
In support of

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ACCEPTED WASTE



Any brand of EMPTY medicine blister packets



Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)

Across

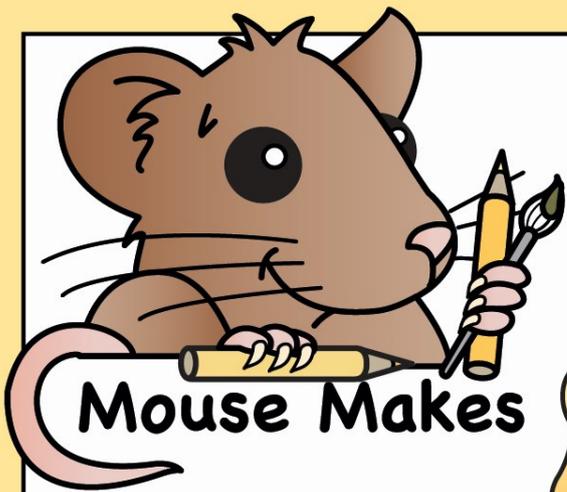
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — '(John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

WALK WITH THE LORD

"Teach me your way,
O Lord, that I would
walk in your _____."
Psalm 86:11



Mouse Makes

"For we **walk** by

not by sight."
2 Corinthians 5:7

"**Walk** by the _____"

Galatians 5:16



Jesus said:
"I am the light
of the world.
If you

me you won't
have to **walk**
in darkness
because
you have
the light
that leads
to life."

John 8:12



"**Walk** in

as Christ loved
us and gave
himself up for us."
Ephesians 5:2

"**Walk** in

a manner
worthy of the
Lord, fully pleasing
to him, bearing

in every good work
and increasing in
the knowledge
of God"

John 8:12

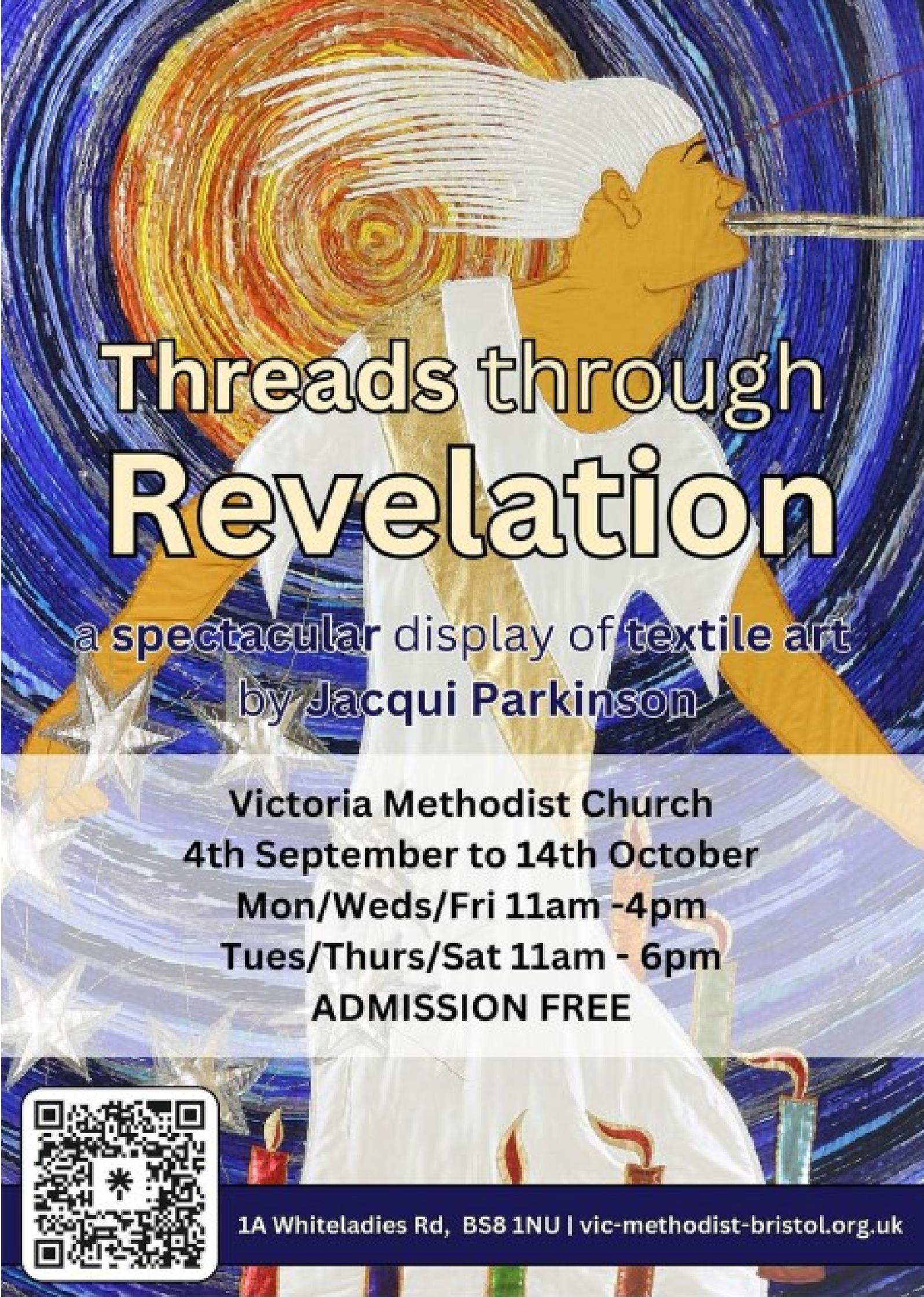
" _____
is everyone who
fears the Lord,
who **walks** in
his ways."

Psalm 128:1

GOD • JESUS • LORD • WALK

WAYS • STEP • FEET • PATH • GO • TEACH • KNOWLEDGE • LIGHT

Find the words from the questions too!



Threads through Revelation

a spectacular display of textile art
by Jacquie Parkinson

Victoria Methodist Church
4th September to 14th October
Mon/Weds/Fri 11am - 4pm
Tues/Thurs/Sat 11am - 6pm
ADMISSION FREE



1A Whiteladies Rd, BS8 1NU | vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk

Threads through Revelation

spectacular visions in fabric

4 September - 14 October

Twelve million stitches and more than three years in the making. 'Threads through Revelation' created by textile artist Jacqui Parkinson, is an exploration of one of the most enigmatic books of the Bible, 'Revelation', but its artistic merit appeals to a wide audience.

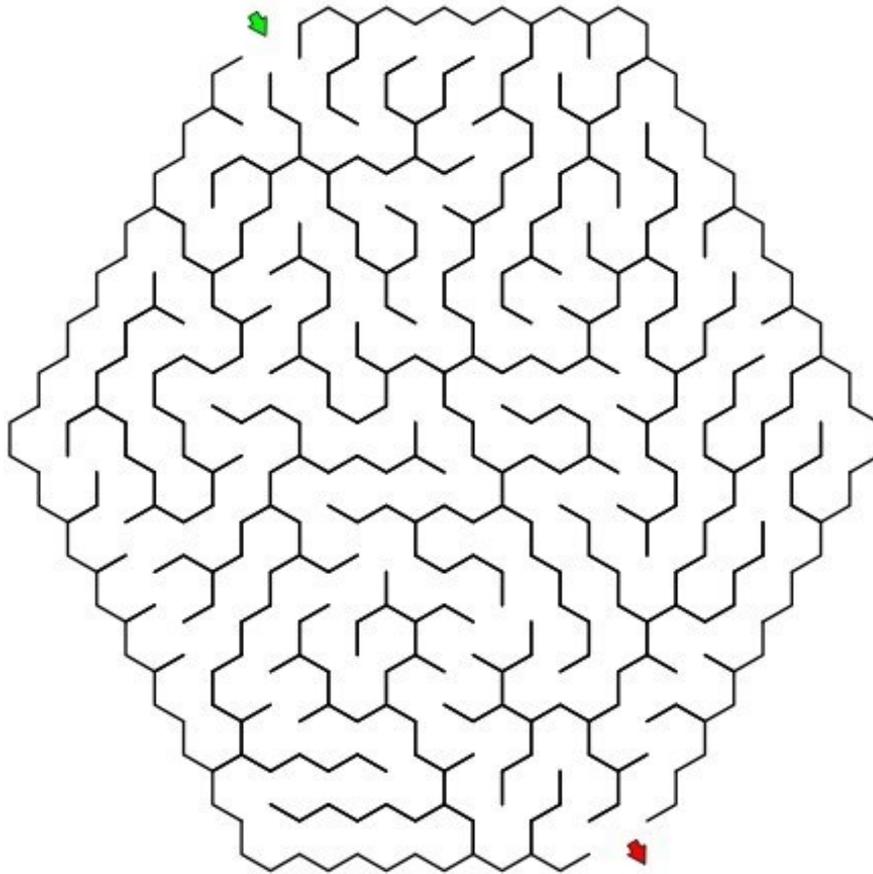
Each large embroidered panel is made on bedsheets Jacqui bought in second-hand shops. She relishes the idea that other people's dreams, histories and DNA are part of the story she is telling. Her technique is a combination of painted dyes, multi-layered silks cut to create an extraordinary frayed effect and metallic leather stitched on top. The panels are strikingly coloured, reflecting the text they illustrate.

We welcome everyone, people of all faiths and none to this exhibition.

See our website for talks, concerts, drama and other linked events



Victoria Methodist Church, 1A Whiteladies Rd, BS8 1NU
vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk



Crossword Solutions

ACROSS:

1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN:

1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

STRATTON TEAM MINISTRY NEWS - NEXT EDITION DEADLINE **for Articles and Information anytime before 15th October 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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Westlea, West Swindon, SN5 7BD

info@pearcefuneralservices.co.uk



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