

**DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH  
AND  
CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS**



**MAGAZINE**

**MARCH 2026**

**Free**

**Minister:** Mark Welch

**Church Secretary:** Chris Penn

**Finance Deacon:** Trevor Oakley

**Property:** Ray Saunders

**Site Manager and Caretaker:** David Hobbs

**Cross Street:** 01727 846891

**Bookings:** [bookings@dsbc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@dsbc.org.uk)

**Charity Registration Number:** 1127791



***FREE CHURCH SERVICES***  
***St Albans Cathedral***

This service is celebrated monthly on the first Wednesday of every month at 11am with our Free Church Chaplain and other ministers.

For further information:  
Contact: Rev Simon Carver  
[simoncarver@btinternet.com](mailto:simoncarver@btinternet.com)

More details in the magazine



## MARCH SERVICES

<b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Salt and Light Matthew 5:13-16 Holy Communion</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>All Age Family Worship 'The Great Escape'</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday Old and New Matthew 5: 17-20</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>We love God as much as the least popular person in our lives Matthew 5: 21-26</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Palm Sunday Turning the world up-side-down Matthew 21: 1-11</b>



Dear Friends

Is it possible that being theologically conservative can make a Church denomination or movement less than Christian?

The core preaching of the early church is known as Kerygma, the English word derives from a Greek verb κηρύσσω meaning 'to cry or proclaim as a herald' The Kerygma has been summarised as "Jesus loves us, died for us, is alive and near us all." All of which is an essential message that the church must proclaim.

But here's the thing, in contrast to the preaching of the early Church, the message of Jesus was bigger than this.

As Matthew 4:17 reminds us,

'From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

The message of Jesus was not limited to a faith that can be confined within a Pietist framework. (Everything is about Jesus and me, and social justice doesn't matter.) Entering into a personal relationship with Jesus is essential, but Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God requires us to aspire to something bigger than simply getting people into church to indulge in emotional encounters that leave the rest of the world unchanged. We are not meant to exist in a bubble of high-octane spirituality that is an escape from the world.

Jesus taught us to pray: 'Your kingdom come', and then, in a classic Hebrew parallelism, added a second clause that explained what that looks like: 'Your will be done on earth as in heaven.' (Matthew 6:10).

In other words, our personal relationship with Jesus is meant to lead us into the aspiration, ambition and actions that change the world for the better by bringing a little bit of heaven to earth.

If we want to change the world, as well as the essential, Kerygma, ("Jesus loves us, died for us, is alive and near us all.") we need the

full witness of scripture as part of our proclamation.

For example, we need the witness of Genesis 1:27 that reminds us that all humanity is made in the image of God, and everyone is worthy of dignity, respect and reverence and compassion.

“So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

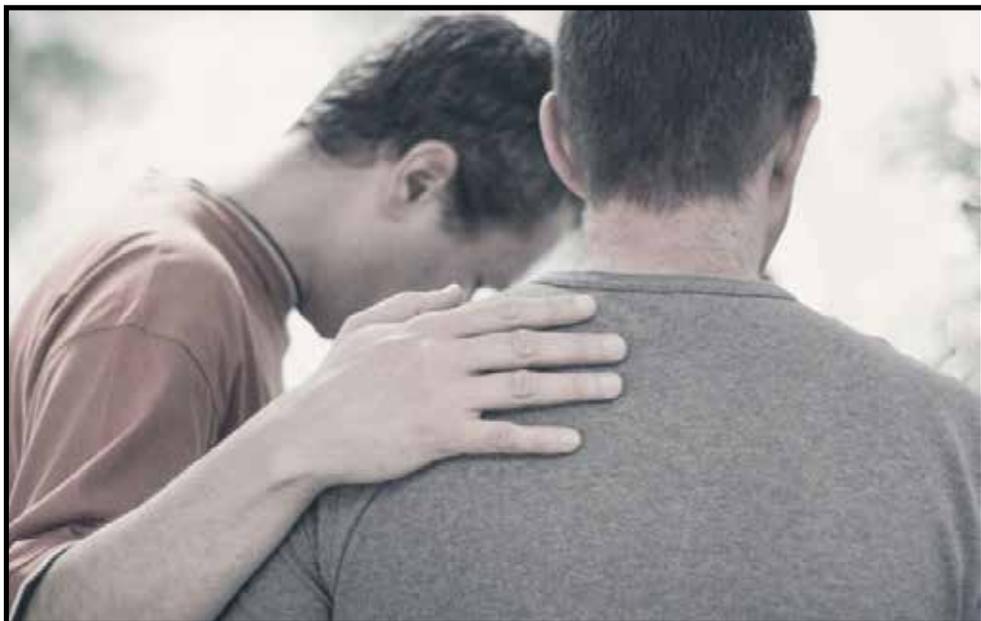
When we apply this by challenging racism, the persecution and demonisation of minority ethnic groups by speaking out against the far-right for example, we are engaging in aspirations, ambition and actions that change the world for the better and are enacting Matthew 6:10.

If a Christian movement restricts itself to the Kerigma (“Jesus loves us, died for us, is alive and near us all.”) and remains silent in the face of overtly racist political rhetoric and movements like the hanging of St George's flags to intimidate and bully minority ethnic groups, is it still a fully Christian Church?

It can't be because it is not seeking the kingdom of God, which was the essence and content of Jesus' message. When the leadership of “Christian’ movements allow themselves to be intimidated into silence about the kingdom of God by the more conservative factions within it, the movement ceases to be Christian. We must proclaim the Kerigma, but unless we also bear witness to all of scripture and the kingdom of God, we are no longer following Jesus, who taught about it and asked us to pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth. We need to pray for our leaders, that they may find the courage to articulate a fully Christian message in the public arena and recover a theological grasp of Jesus’ message about the kingdom of God.

With much love

*Mark*



## ***PASTORAL TEAM***

The members of the Pastoral Team are always happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

Martin Taylor (07787 555730), Marjorie Jones (01727 422930), Jill Potter (07779 797928), Liz Blight (07884 431051) and Alison Ashmore (01727 867335), are active members of the Pastoral Team.

The team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.

*Mark Welch*

March 2026

## **PASTORAL NEWS**

March is the month which promises warmer days & rising temperatures ahead & longer daylight.

This year the first day of the Spring Equinox is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 1am, our clocks go forward 1 hour, which initially makes the mornings slightly darker, and from then on, the evenings get lighter. Easter is early this year and Palm Sunday, which is the beginning of Holy week, is on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March and Easter Sunday is on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

In our church family, the following people may benefit from our prayers:-

Krisztina Schreiner has recently returned home from hospital. Richard and Lesley Humber, Ruth Sayers, Linda Williams, Olly Branch and family, Velma, Tom and their young family, Jenny Johnson, Jane Swain, Val Urban and Veronica Willians.

Also those who can no longer attend church:

Bill and Elizabeth Allen, John and Sandra Carpenter, Brenda and Jack Passmore.

I find the following hymn, "Christ be our Light"( both the words & the music) to be very powerful and thought provoking. Many of you will know this hymn. The words sung to music can be found on our phones via the Google Search engine.

***Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people  
Light for the world to see.***

***Longing for peace, our world is troubled  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us  
Make us your living voice.***

*Longing for food, many are hungry  
Longing for water, many still thirst  
Make us your bread, broken for others  
Shared until all are fed.*

*Longing for shelter, many are homeless  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others  
Walls made of living stone.*

*Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong  
Let us be servants to one another  
Making your kingdom come.*

**CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT!  
SHINE IN OUR HEARTS  
SHINE THROUGH THE DARKNESS  
CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT!  
SHINE IN YOUR CHURCH GATHERED TODAY,"**

Bernadette Farrell 1993

*Jill Potter*



March 2026

**DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH  
ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE**



# **TODDLERS**

**Wednesday mornings at 9.45 am**  
*(Maximum limit of 30 Adults)*

**£2 donation per family; Refreshments provided**

**Meeting every Wednesday during term-time**  
**in the Lower Hall**

*Entrance via the church car park*

***Last Toddlers before Easter is Wednesday, 25th March.***

***Back for the Summer Term on Wednesday, 15th April.***

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities.**  
**Please come along and join us**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone**  
**Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

*Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes*



# Birthday scheme



Be a blessing on  
your birthday.  
Transform a life.

Join your church's Birthday Scheme today to change lives with BMS World Mission. Go to [www.bmsworldmission.org/birthday](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/birthday) to find out how your birthday can make a difference.

Your Birthday Scheme Co-ordinator is:

**LINDA WILLIAMS**

Photo: Each year, gifts to the Birthday Scheme save lives at Guinebor II Hospital in Chad.  
The Baptist Missionary Society, registered in England and Wales as a charity number 1174364 and a company limited by guarantee number 10349659.

March 2



**7th-Marjorie Jones  
8th-Mike Plant  
9th-Liz Blight  
21st-Pat Rowley  
and Millie Vokuhl in Nepal who will be 12**

We also remember Dennis Rowson who will be 92 on the 1<sup>st</sup> March. He lives in a Care Home in Exeter and is not very well.

***Time is  
Too slow for those who wait.  
Too swift for those who fear.  
Too long for those who grieve.  
Too short for those who rejoice.  
But those who love,  
Time is eternity.***

From Prayers of Comfort and Words of Wisdom as I have used in previous months.

I wish everyone born in the beginning of Spring, a very Happy Birthday.

*Linda Williams*

## ***LENT COURSE***

The themes for the 2026 Lent Course are as follows:

**26th February**

**5th March**

**12th March**

**19th March**

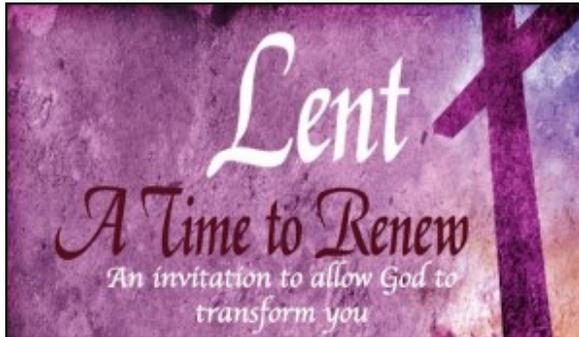
**Slavery**

**Call**

**Rescue and Hunger**

**Mountain**

*Mark*



# Sustainable

## SHIFT

A CARBON FAST FOR THE EARTH



# Green Anglican

Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Network

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 PREPARATION			MARCH 5 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY:</b> We have all fallen short. Where can we improve this Lent?	6 <b>MEASURE YOUR MARK:</b> What size is your Carbon footprint?	7 <b>ECO-HEROES ASSEMBLE:</b> What kind of eco-hero are you?	8 <b>MAKE THE PLEDGE:</b> Make a fresh commitment today	9 Prepare your hearts and minds for action! <b>1 PETER 1:13</b>
 NATURE	10 <b>VEGGIES FOR THE WIN:</b> Go meat-free on Mondays this Lent	11 <b>PLANT SOMETHING:</b> Plant a tree. Grow a future!	12 <b>LET NATURE IN:</b> Plant an indoor plant for Peace!	13 <b>COMMUNION FOREST?</b> Find out more	14 <b>HIKE FOR THE SOUL:</b> A Lent Adventure! Embrace the great outdoors	15 <b>NATURE CALLS:</b> Picnic or Hike with friends and family!	16 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. <b>PSALM 19:1</b>
 WATER	17 <b>BAPTISM BLESSINGS:</b> Share the Joy of New Life! Share a pic of your baptism story	18 <b>WATER WISE:</b> Recycle Every Drop! Reuse your shower and bath water!	19 <b>LEAK ALERT:</b> Save water, report problems!	20 <b>ECO-LAUNDRY:</b> Be water wise when you are doing your laundry	21 <b>QUICK SPLASH:</b> Short Showers. Big Impact!	22 <b>CELEBRATE WATER:</b> World Water Day. Every Day!	23 The river of God is full of water <b>PSALM 65:9</b>
 FOOD	24 <b>FEAST SMARTER, WASTE LESS:</b> Create actions to lessen food waste	25 <b>COMPOST CREW:</b> Turn Scraps Into Gold! Start a compost bin at home, work or school	26 <b>LOCAL LOVE:</b> Fresh from the Farm to Your Fork. Support local farmers and suppliers.	27 <b>DITCH THE JUNK!</b> Skip junk food this Lent and donate the difference!	28 <b>HERBS FOR LENT:</b> Grow Your Own Flavor! Plant some herb plants	29 <b>ECO-FRIENDLY FEASTS:</b> Eco-coloring. Save the Planet!	30 Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth <b>GENESIS 1:29</b>
 WASTE	31 <b>SPRING INTO ACTION:</b> Clear Out & Give Back!	APRIL 1 <b>NO FOAM ZONE:</b> Choose Sustainable!	2 <b>BAG IT RIGHT:</b> Create Your Own Shopping Bag	3 <b>CLEAN UP CREW:</b> Let's Tidy Our Town!	4 <b>RESPECT THE WASTE PICKERS:</b> Separate & Clean for a Greener Tomorrow!	5 <b>GO UNWRAPPED:</b> Shop wisely choose products with no plastic wrapping	6 Do not defile the land where you live and where I dwell! <b>NUMBERS 35: 34</b>
 ENERGY	7 <b>BE GEYSER CONSCIOUS:</b> (Water heater) Lower the temp or switch it off	8 <b>LIGHT UP GREEN:</b> Switch to Energy Efficient Bulbs!	9 <b>ECO COMMUTE DAY:</b> Pedal, Walk, or Ride Green!	10 <b>COOK SMART, SAVE ENERGY:</b> Make Every Bite Count!	11 <b>LIGHTS OUT, ROMANCE IN:</b> Candlelit Date Night!	12 <b>UNPLUG &amp; PLAY:</b> A Day Without Screens!	13 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound <b>JOHN 3:8</b>

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.”  
~ **DEUTERONOMY 30:15-16,19**



Dagnall Street Baptist Church and Cross Street Centre Magazine  
**DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE**



# **ALL AGE FAMILY WORSHIP**

**Come and join us on**

**Sunday, 8th March**  
**10.30 am**

***'THE GREAT ESCAPE'***

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities**  
**Do just come along, we would love to see you**  
**There are activities, crafts and games for**  
**children at all our**  
**services**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone**  
**Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

*Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes*

**DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE**



## **Who Let the Dads Out (WLTDO)**

*Meets on the Second Saturday of each month*

**£2 donation per family; Refreshments provided  
For Dads, Grandads, Uncles etc..**

**Taking place in the Lower Hall**

*Entrance via the church car park*

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON  
Saturday, 14th March  
10-11.15am**

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities.  
Please come along and join us**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone  
Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

*Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes*



## **THE ALPHA COURSE**

<b>Week One</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Is there more to life than this?</b>
<b>Week Two</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Who is Jesus?</b>
<b>Week Three</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Why did Jesus die?</b>
<b>Week Four</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	<b>How can we have faith?</b>
<b>Week Five</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Why and how do I pray?</b>
<b>HALF TERM BREAK</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>Week Six</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Why and how should I read the Bible?</b>
<b>Week Seven</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Why and how should I tell others?</b>
<b>MARK ON RESIDENTIAL</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>SATURDAY ALPHA DAY</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Spirit?</b>
<b>Week Eight</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>How can I resist evil?</b>
<b>Week Nine</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Does God heal today?</b>
<b>Week Ten</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>What about the Church</b>
<b>SATURDAY ALPHA DAY</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Why and how does God Guide us?</b>



**ST. ALBANS  
CATHEDRAL**

**You are invited to attend a  
Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel  
on the following Wednesdays at 11.00am:**

**7th January 2025**

**The Reverend Simon Carver,**  
Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain,  
St Albans Cathedral.

*Please note this service will include a celebration  
of the Lord's Supper, to which all Christian  
believers are invited.*

**4th February 2025**

**Maggie Dodd,**  
Anna Chaplain, St Albans.

**4th March 2025**

**The Reverend Mary Moody**  
Regional Minister, Central Baptist Association.

Free Church Ecumenical Chaplain: Reverend Simon Carver,  
Email: [simoncarver@btinternet.com](mailto:simoncarver@btinternet.com)

# Scrabble Club



DSBC Scrabble Club is on the ***first and third*** Tuesday of the month from ***14:30 to 16:30***.

***Tuesday 3rd and 17th March***

**All are welcome.**

So come along to the Cross Street Centre and give it a try.

Speak to me for further information.

*Colin Owen*

March 2026

## **FOODBANK**

### ***Can you add one extra thing to your weekly shop?***

There is even more need for food bank donations in the St Albans area. All DSBC food donations are now sent to the St Albans and District Foodbank run by the Trussel Trust Charity whose depot is in Redbourn, who also collect from the Foodbank baskets placed in many of the local supermarkets and the Town Hall and the Verulamium museums.

You can now access the shopping list needs on a free app called 'Bank the food', however, it seems that the most urgent needs are:

LONG LIFE JUICE  
LONG LIFE MILK  
MULTI SURFACE CLEANER  
LUNCH BOX SNACKS  
TINNED CUSTARD  
TUNNED FRUIT  
TINNED MEAT

If you want to see the full list but cannot get the app speak to me.

If we just add one item to our shopping list we can bring it with us on a Sunday and I can ensure it is taken to a collection point.

Many thanks

*Diane*



# EMMANUEL SCHOOL, HAIFI

## UPDATE

### October to December 2025

---

Dear Friends,

On 13<sup>th</sup> October, I returned to Manipur via Delhi and Guwahati. I took an opportunity to meet one half of the YWAM leadership in the North East; Mahima (husband Mangneo was away at a conference in South India) – and we discussed a YWAM team coming to work with our students in 2026.

By the time I arrived at Emmanuel School, preparations for the School Olympics were going on and everyone was in high spirits. After the majority of class time had been focused on textbooks and studies, students were more than ready and full of zeal to run, play and compete in all kinds of sports and activities. Beginning with an opening ceremony and torch relay and an encouraging speech from our Guest of Honour – local entrepreneur, former student and teacher – Rajen Dhakal.

My main aim on returning was to search for and recruit a Principal for school who could live on campus and take on the vision and responsibilities to drive the school forward. So far there had been one potential candidate on my mind for the role – currently a Vice Principal at a college in a nearby town but who hails from Haipi. We had a long discussion, and he expressed a strong interest as well as concerns and apprehensions about the role. We left the conversation with the understanding that for the time being he must continue to work in his current role. So we must go back to the prayer closet on this most important prayer point!

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to several well qualified teachers by the end of the academic session, including our experienced, B Ed holding maths and science and English teachers. Other staff have left too for various reasons, from being offered higher salaries elsewhere to sickness and other family responsibilities. Therefore we held a run of interviews just before I left. Thankfully, we have been able to recruit suitable candidates (some extremely promising in both primary and secondary). We now only need an English teacher for secondary and a caretaker for the whole campus.

Retaining staff is always challenging in the context of Manipur. Firstly, the political and economic situation remains unstable – with many of our brightest minds leaving the state to find a better life elsewhere. And then there is the ongoing tension of offering staff, particularly teachers, a competitive salary. This year, in 2026, I am looking for ways to create more sustainability and growth for our school by utilising the infrastructure we have. For example the classrooms could be used as a coaching centre for university entrance exams and other government exam preparations, after school hours. We would obviously need to find suitable and qualified subject coaches for this.

On the subject of becoming self-sustaining, our school stationery store, run by Lelet is going from strength to strength and is beginning to gain profits for the school. This coming year, we will be expanding to sell school tracksuits as well as t-shirts. Another great hope for profits lies in our hostel which continues to be run efficiently and holistically by Kakai and Chun, who teach hostellers to grow vegetables as well as having a structured routine. We are praying for more students to come and enjoy the beautiful campus and hostel facilities this year.

Our School Advisor and friend, Sem Haokip came again in November and we followed up training with primary teachers, our Core Team and Board to keep pushing the school vision forward; to transform our curriculum from rote learning to hands-on, play oriented, learner centred – with Christ's values at the heart of all we do – in order to raise up a generation of young people who know their value as image bearers and who can think wisely, critically and independently; who fear God and not man; and who are ready to lead and serve their communities. It will take time, but every change and intentional decision we take is moving us forward to achieving our goals.

At the end of January we are looking forward to another Primary week of training with Sem, with the aim to reshape the Primary curriculum – focusing on a more practical, learner centred approach and moving away from textbooks and exam dependency.

In the meantime I am preparing to return within the first few weeks of February. My main priorities will be to establish staff and students in a routine which will include co-curricular activities (including gardening and sports), regular Saturday morning celebration & golden value assemblies and as we begin the academic session. With many new staff, we need to ensure they are onboarded and ready to teach.

With love and best wishes for 2026,

Joanne



1. Children's Day



3. Looking at the sun (telescope donated to Haipei Youth Club by star gazers in South India)



2. Growing mushrooms in the hostel.



4 Senior girls' football



5. House gardening



## Thanksgiving for answered prayer:

- Praise God for provision – sponsored students receiving an education and for the school being able to pay staff salaries.
- Praise God for being able to keep school open throughout 2025.
- Praise God for initiatives that we have started this year including house garden competition, school council and more focus on training children to lead.

## Please pray for:

- A Principal (who shares the vision and values of the school) who can stay in Haipi full time and replace me.
- The teacher training to bring transformation and bring teaching and learning in our school inline with our vision and ethos.
- Continued wisdom and grace for the Board, CORE team and senior staff to lead the school in uncertain and difficult times.
- For justice (and ultimately peace) for the oppressed in Manipur, including displaced men, women and children.



6. Parent teaching meeting - discussion time.



8. Olympic closing ceremony - distributing trophies.

- For God's Kingdom to come and His will to be done at Emmanuel School.
- Our School Council to be well mentored by teachers.

## Practical Support:

With the ongoing crises in Manipur, any financial support is welcomed.

This can be a one-time donation either for the school or for displaced families.

Sponsorship for needy children – either for those based in hostel or day students – continues to be a lifeline for the school.

For further details please contact our Treasurer or Secretary:

Bill Tromans:  
Bill.tromans@btinternet.com Or

Muriel Kipgen:  
murielkipgen@btinternet.com



7. Journalist and Lawyer - Greeshma Kuthur from South India came to talk to Class X students about their aspirations.

March 2026



## ***CHURCH IN THE CAFÉ***

Our recent CITC meetings have not been so well supported, so we have had a rethink, and have provisional plans for **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Hopefully we will have a better turn-out and we will then review future meetings.

On 24<sup>th</sup> May, we have arranged a visit from our BMS Church Partner Judy Cook who will be on Home Assignment from Hope Home, the special needs children's home which she runs in Chiang Mai, Thailand. She will be visiting us for morning worship followed by a Fellowship lunch and there will be an opportunity to hear from her following the lunch. This will take the place of the scheduled May CITC

Feedback is always welcome and often necessary to ensure we are still on track. Please let Mark, me or any of the other deacons know how you feel about CITC and if you are able to organise a meeting, even better!

Everyone is very welcome to these informal gatherings in Cross Street as we meet together with tea and cake.





## **UNLOCK WALK** **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

The February magazine outlined plans for this year's Unlock London Walk so, for some of us, the date will be in our diaries and we can begin to look forward to a fascinating walk around the Kilburn and Hampstead areas of North London. The title for this year's 7.2 mile walk is, "**Homes, History, Hills & Heath.**"

The walk takes us to 7 wonderful churches that reflect the character of the peoples and the places they serve. We will discover how these churches are working to address the issues and concerns facing their communities in this very diverse area.

The different levels of prosperity along the walk can be quite stark, but there are lots of subtle contrasts here, too. So, as you walk along the handsome road in Hampstead called New End Square look for Wells House and you will discover it's part of a council estate snugly built around the gardens of Burgh House, the grand mansion next door.

And, as you consider how this urban area still retains names harking back to a distant rural past, you might reflect on how narrow lanes like Shepherd's and Springs became the servants' access paths and the conduits for the rubbish of the grand houses beyond the high fences. We pass at least three sites of significant wells or springs and the spring referenced in the narrow lane was a source of very pure water (see the plaque on the corner of Lyndhurst Road) important to local people up to the mid-19th century. This spring is the source of a small tributary of the Thames called the Tyburn which gave its name to an infamous place of execution located near Hyde Park Corner that was used from the 12th to the late 18th Century. Highwaymen who

operated in this area were executed there, as were other criminals and some Catholic martyrs, but the strangest hanging there was the posthumous “execution” of Oliver Cromwell! (Google it!)

We also traverse one of the great corridors of transport that has made London such a powerful and wealthy place. Some of the main roads we cross are ancient; for example, Kilburn High Road is part of Watling Street. We also cross over a number of major railway lines that connect the capital with much of Northern Britain.

The hills we climb on our way promised clean air, views of the city and access to the Heath to those who settled and developed there. However, while rich people continue to live up in Hampstead, many of the large country estates in this area were established on the lower, flatter lands to the west and those ended up accommodating the transport links and the great explosion of population and industrial development that took place in the 19th and 20th centuries. Brondesbury and Salusbury are just two of the names from these wealthy landowners. In Kilburn we pass down roads that were once occupied by the families of the men (many Irish) who built the railway lines and roads we are using today. So, as the industrial past fades, new housing has gradually replaced the factories, and new economic migrants have replaced the old ones.

Up in Hampstead, those wealthier, more “cultivated” residents took it upon themselves to ensure that the Heath survived, undeveloped, and we can thank them for the beautiful open spaces we now enjoy. We can also be grateful that this wonderful Heath now acts as one of the “lungs of London” helping to alleviate some of the effects of our human-made climate crisis.

We pray that this year’s walk will help us connect people with places, faith with the past and future, nature with frenetic urban activities and lively, worshipping communities with the beauties and dangers that face those living in this part of the city. It is not just the high viewpoints that can give us a new perspective. The love and commitment of all we meet today, and the heritage and history they are placed in, should give us all hope for this challenging year.

There will be the usual variety of church stops en-route, including Heath Street BC in Hampstead where a former DSBC minister, Rev. Dr Edwin Robertson ministered from 1983-2001; he came to Dagnall Street during the war in 1942, leaving in 1947 when he was appointed to the Allied Control Commission in Germany, as a Brigadier responsible for religious affairs.

The Unlock London Walk is remarkable; a unique way of seeing London and engaging with some of its churches. If you are interested in joining us, I have copies of the route map available or you can look it up on the Unlock website. We will meet at St Albans City Railway Station at 8.30am on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April**, for the trip to West Hampstead station and a memorable day out.

If you are interested in supporting UNLOCK but without the walking, you may like to sponsor the church group. You can do this either by sponsoring someone you know who will be walking, or by using the church sponsor form which will be on the table in the link during the next few weeks.

Thankyou.

*Chris Penn*



***“Start every day with a smile and get it over with.”***  
***W C Fields***



## ***Baptist Union Prayer Diary March 2026***

- 1 March** 6 March is the **World Day of Prayer** - an international, women-led, ecumenical movement promoting prayerful living and worship for men, women and young people. This year the theme is 'I will give you rest, come', using materials prepared by women in Nigeria.  
[www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)
- 8 March** **Project Violet** undertook research on women's experience of Baptist ministry between 2021 and 2024. Please pray for the ongoing work in response to the research, for those bodies who have made commitments to change, and for those who are seeking to ensure ongoing justice for all.  
[www.baptist.org.uk/projectviolet](http://www.baptist.org.uk/projectviolet)
- 15 March** **Strong yet gentle God**, hear our prayer of gratitude for all mothers. We give thanks not only for the mother figures in our own lives, but for the work and witness of women and men in parenting roles, in all times and in all places, as we acknowledge the importance of their contribution to the fullness of life that is your will for each and every one of us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.  
*Prayer taken from Roots resources:*  
[www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)
- 22 March** Please pray for **Matt Ceaser**, the recently appointed 18-35s Development Coordinator. This week has seen a gathering of interns from across Baptists To

gether – a time to share experiences together and to be encouraged.

[www.baptist.org.uk/18-35s](http://www.baptist.org.uk/18-35s)

**29 March**

**London Baptists** exists to encourage and equip its member churches as they pursue their own distinct vision and calling to the local communities in which they're based. Please pray for the 300 churches of the Association as they carry out their mission and ministry in and around the London area.

[www.londonbaptist.org.uk](http://www.londonbaptist.org.uk)



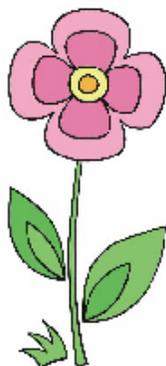
***“Never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up.”***

***Jesse Jackson***



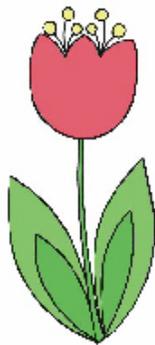
# Mother's Day Cryptogram

Can you solve this cryptogram?  
The answer is a quote by Abraham Lincoln.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
				24								

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	11											



— — —  
21 16 16

— — — —  
6 9 21 6

— — —  
3 21 5

O —  
11 19

E — E —  
24 7 24 19

— O — E  
9 11 23 24

— O —  
6 11

— E ,  
25 24

— O — E  
3 11 22 24

— O —  
6 11

— — —  
5 8

— — — E —  
21 1 4 24 16

— O — — E — .  
5 11 6 9 24 19

## ***TEA, CHAT AND PRAYER***



The next gathering is planned for ***Tuesday, 12th March, 2.30pm to 4pm.***

We are hoping to have a Lent theme led by the Rev Martin Taylor.

Venue has not yet been determined, but will be advertised in the Church Notices and the Sunday projection.

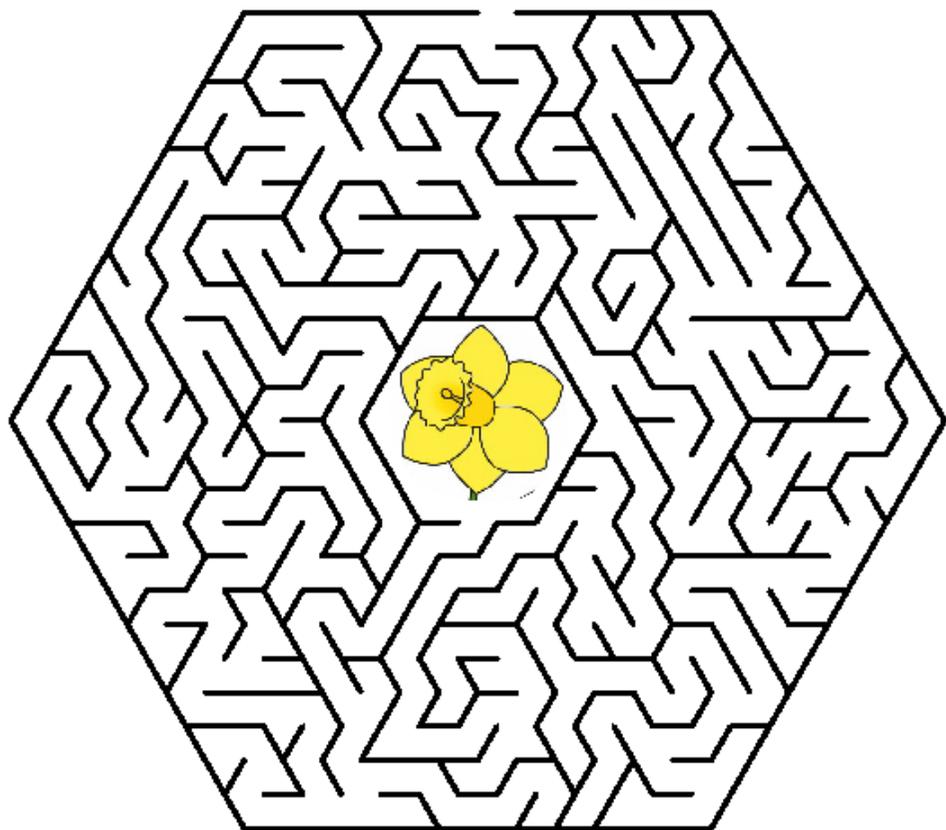
**Please let me know if you will require transport for this gathering or you need any further details.**

*Jill Potter*

*mobile no: 07779 797928*

# St David's Day Maze

Can you help the girl find her way through the maze to pick a daffodil to wear on St David's Day?



## ***ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES***



Let's remind ourselves of the items we can undertake as a church.

### **Food Bank**

A list of items we can give to support this are listed in the church magazine.

Any items can be taken to the Town Hall (11am to 5pm, please check times)

### **TWAM** -Tools with A Mission.

Any items of hand and machine tools to support people in overseas countries to help them be self-sufficient. Any tool items can be taken to Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Ave. St Albans, on any Thursday afternoon.

TWAM leaflets are in the leaflet rack in the Centre, or if you require further details contact me.

**Emmaus**; who recycle old furniture as well as supporting people who are homeless.

**Used Postage Stamps** for local charity. Please leave in the box on the link table

March 2026

Due to circumstances, I will no longer be attending Car Boot sales, so any items can be taken to your local Charity shop of choice.

***We can all play our part with environmental issues in protecting God's planet.***

Recycling you can undertake at home:

Recycle Paper - Cardboard Tin – Glass and Plastic with the council waste collection.

Recycle food waste and plants in a compost bin, if you can.

Many thanks in anticipation

*Trevor Oakley*



## **Table Tennis – Snooker – Pool and other Indoor Games**



Every Monday at;  
Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St. Albans  
In the Lower Hall from 10.30am till 12.30pm

*Come along and join us for a time of  
Fun and Fellowship*

*All are Welcome*

*Contact: Trevor Oakley*



## ***PHOTOGRAPHY***

You may have noticed bright yellow signs placed in areas of the church and Cross St café. These are a reminder to us all that any photos taken on our premises are for personal use only and **must not** to be shared on social media or in any form of publicity, **un-**  
**less** permission has been granted by those being photographed, or in the case of children, by their parents or carers.

There are consent forms available if needed.

For further information please contact:

**LINDA ROBERTS on 01727 858869 or FRANK IDDIOLS on 07939 287785 (both responsible for Safeguarding) or CHRIS PENN on 07770 334339 (Church Secretary)**

Thank you.

## MARCH 2026

Some interesting dates for March from Activity Village

[17th February - 18th March: Ramadan]

March: Women's History Month

1st March: St David's Day

2nd March: Dr Seuss's Birthday

4th March: Holi (Festival of Colours, Hindu Festival)

5th March: World Book Day

8th March: International Women's Day

9th March: Commonwealth Day

15th March: Mother's Day (UK)

15th March: Mothering Sunday

17th March: St Patrick's Day

19th March: Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan, Islam Festival)

20th March: Spring Equinox

20th March: Nowruz (Iranian New Years Day)

21st March: World Down Syndrome Day

21st - 27th March: Shakespeare Week

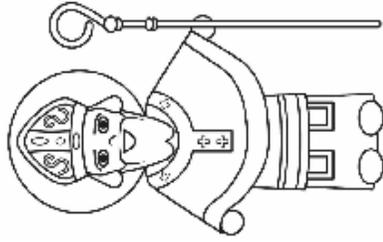
26th March: Rama Navami (Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Rama)

# St Patrick's Day

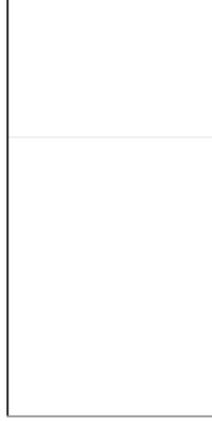
Read about Saint Patrick and St Patrick's Day and colour in the pictures.



Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. Colour in Ireland on this map of the British Isles.



He returned to Ireland as a Christian priest.



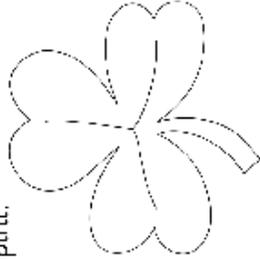
The Irish flag is made up of three stripes. The first stripe is green, the second is white and the third is orange.



Saint Patrick was born in Britain in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. He was imprisoned and worked as a shepherd in Ireland for six years before escaping.

Saint Patrick said that the three leaves of a shamrock represented the Holy Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

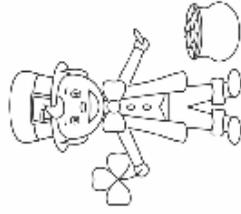
Colour the shamrock in green.



St Patrick's Day is celebrated on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Some people go to parades wearing green or dressed as leprechauns.

Leprechauns are mischievous Irish fairies.



# Mary Anning Factsheet

Mary Anning (1799–1847) was a famous English fossil hunter and collector. Despite her poor background and limited education, she was the first to discover and identify many important pre-historic fossils. She lived at a time when women were rarely taken seriously in science. During her lifetime she received little recognition for her work, despite helping to change our understanding of ancient creatures and evolution.



## **A short biography of Mary Anning**

Mary Anning was born in 1799 in Lyme Regis, Dorset, England. She was the eldest of ten children born to Molly (Mary) and Richard Anning, but only Mary and her brother Joseph survived into adulthood.

Mary's father was a carpenter by trade, but also a keen amateur fossil hunter. To supplement his income, he would clean and polish fossil findings and sell them to tourists on the beach. Mary learnt much about fossil hunting from her father. The cliffs near their seaside home had lain beneath the sea 200 million years ago. Now they were rich in the fossilised remains of prehistoric sea creatures.

Mary didn't go to school because her family needed her to earn money, but she learnt to read and write at Sunday School. She began to teach herself about rocks and anatomy (body parts) and learnt to draw very detailed and accurate drawings of her fossil findings.

When Mary was 11, her father died from a disease called tuberculosis and injuries he had sustained during a cliff fall. The family were grief-stricken and left even poorer than before. Mary was determined to support her family. She went fossil hunting most days with her dog, Tray. She particularly liked hunting after a storm, when the waves, wind and rain caused the rocks to crumble.

In 1811, just a year after their father's death, Mary and her brother were out fossil hunting when Joseph saw a skull within the rocks. A few months later, Mary returned and slowly uncovered the rest of the skeleton. It turned out to be a nearly complete 17-foot skeleton of a marine reptile from the time of the dinosaurs. Mary sold the skeleton to a local collector for £23, and it eventually went to London's Natural History Museum, where it was named Ichthyosaurus ('fish lizard') in 1817.

People had found fossils before, but no-one understood what they were, and no-one knew about dinosaurs. Mary also discovered a flying reptile (pterosaur) in 1828. But perhaps her most important find was in 1823, when she unearthed the complete skeleton of a nine-foot swimming reptile, later named plesiosaur.

Mary shared her knowledge with important scientists of the time, who came to visit her and the fossils she had found. But the scientific world was not so kind. Many articles described her work but didn't reference Mary, and many of her findings joined important fossil collections with no credit given to her.

In 1826, Mary opened a shop in Lyme Regis. She sold most of her fossils to support herself. But in 1838, was granted an annual income to continue her work from the British Association for the Advancement of Science and London's Geological Society. This was despite the fact that, as a woman, she couldn't become a member.

Mary died from breast cancer in 1847, at the age of 47. She had never married and her only surviving family were her brother Joseph and his wife Amelia. Mary was buried at Lyme Regis Parish Church, where later the Geological Society paid for a large stained-glass window to be installed in her memory.

## ***FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHURCH***

As we all know our household bills are rising and the cost of heating and lighting the church is no different to the energy costs at home. Our church relies on raising its own income. Some of this comes from hiring out our rooms, but the majority comes from congregational giving. There are various ways in which this can be done. There is a plate by the door of the church for cash and offering envelopes.

We now also have a contactless offering device which accepts card or phone payments of specific amounts and this is also by the main church doors on Sundays. These donations are completely anonymous.



We are happy to receive bank transfers and standing orders and the details are below:

***Deacons of Dagnall Street Baptist Church***  
**60-18-11**  
**42087783**

If you decide to make an offering in this way, it is helpful if you are able to email our Finance Manager, Liz Blight, [lizblight@gmail.com](mailto:lizblight@gmail.com), so that she can connect up the entry on our bank statement.

Thank you for your generosity!

***The Deacons***



'Share St Albans' is a 'library of things' where we lend DIY, garden, kitchen, party items or something for your home. Set up for St Albans and district to borrow not buy. Whether you want to loan a gazebo or DIY equipment we are here to share and reduce our collective environmental footprint and have a collaborative community.

By borrowing something for a small fee you can save yourself money, save on space needed for storage and help to save the planet.

Locations:

The Green House, 46 London Road, AL1 1NG  
Sandridge Parish Council Car Park, The Ridgeway AL4 9TU

Please log onto the site to see opening times at these locations



## THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY Matthew 21:1-11

Unscramble each word, then arrange the circled letters to form a word that will complete the statement that Jesus made about himself.



DOYNKE

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6

TLOC

--	--	--	--

2

STUOH

--	--	--	--	--	--

3 1

ADAEH

--	--	--	--	--	--

4 7

KNIG

--	--	--	--

5

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted "\_\_\_\_\_ to the Son of David!" Matthew 21:9a (NIV)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

### HERE ARE SOME CLUES IN CASE YOU NEED HELP!

1. A small animal similar to a horse that has long ears. Matthew 21:2(NIV)
2. A young male horse (or donkey). Matthew 21:2 (NIV)
3. To call out in a loud voice. Matthew 21:9 (NIV)
4. The opposite of behind. Matthew 21:9 (NIV)
5. A male ruler of a country. Matthew 21:5 (NIV)

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray,  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Keep me praising to the break of day.

Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna.  
Sing Hosanna to the King of kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King.

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,  
Give me peace in my heart, I pray,  
Give me peace in my heart, kept me resting,  
Keep me resting to the end of day.

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
Give me love in my hear, I pray,  
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
Keep me serving to the end of day.

Give me light in my heart, keep me shining,  
Keep me light in my heart, I pray,  
Give me light in my heart, keep me shining,  
Keep me shining to the end of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King.





## THE STORY OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC

Many people have wondered over the years how it was that the rat, the smallest of all the creatures, was given the honour of having the first year of the Chinese Zodiac named after him. This is the story I have heard.

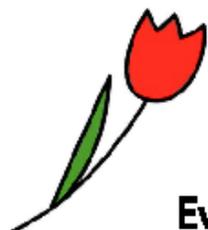
A very long time ago, the Jade Emperor, who ruled the heavens of China, sent a message to all the animals asking them to come together so that he could give each of them a year, which would make it easier for the people of China to keep track of time. The cat and the rat were good friends and decided to travel to meet the Jade Emperor together.

When it came time to leave, however, the cat was taking a nap. The rat, realising that he would have to use all his cunning to be noticed by the Jade Emperor, left his friend sleeping, and set off on his own. This is why there is no year named after the cat, and also why cats have hated rats ever since.

When the rat arrived, the Jade Emperor welcomed him and the other animals and told them that they should all take part in a swimming race. Once again, the rat realised that he would have to be very clever if he wanted to win the race. He found the largest, strongest animal, which was the ox, and pleaded with him to let him ride on its head. The ox was kind and strong, and agreed that they would swim across together. The rat travelled safely across the river on the ox's back, but, just before they reached the other side, climbed over the ox's head, jumped onto land, and reached the finish line first. The rat had proved its cunning, and the Jade Emperor named the first year after the rat and the second year after the ox.







## Spring Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters **F L O W E R B U D**.  
Don't guess - use logic.

		B		E		O		
	U	F	W		O	E	D	
			L		R			
B		E		O		W		U
		U		W		L		
L		W		F		R		B
			O		B			
	E	D	F		W	U	B	
		R		U		F		

March 2026

**THE NEXT DATE FOR COPY FOR THE  
MAGAZINE WILL BE THURSDAY,  
19th, MARCH, 2026**

I was really pleased to read Joe Swift's article in my newspaper about tidying up the garden. He firmly believes that you should not do that but leave the rotting material to give insects a good start over the winter. So I have followed his every instruction!! It wasn't hard. Also he advocates the 'no dig' garden. Just cover everything with rotting compost and disturb the earth as little as possible, the worms do the rest.

I have ordered my vegetable plug plants ready for the Spring, I bought a collection to fit my raised bed and manger planter. But I can't for the life of me remember what was in it and they have removed the collection from the website because they have sold out. I am sure there were tomatoes, lettuce, beet-root, sweetcorn, the other stuff I can't remember. But I did order some cavolo nero as extra. So the vegetables will be a surprise this year. I have a nice bit of compost on the go this year, but even for my small garden it is not nearly enough. At the hospice they have industrial volumes of compost—there are six bins all at various rotting stages. Last Friday we moved one lot of compost to an empty bin and interlaced it with rotting leaf compost. It was really good stuff. Only half way down we came across the remnants of a rabbit hutch debris and it did smell a bit! It was absolutely teeming with worms and crawly insects that I had no idea what they were. Also some very healthy, fat spiders.

It must be a very good year for snowdrops, as they are magnificent at the hospice, but not in my garden they seem to have disappeared! That's gardening for you—win some and you lose some!

*Glynis*  
**glynis.griffiths1@gmail.com**  
**01462 733665**  
**07517 877601**

## **What, When and Where March 2026**

The church is open for services at 10.30am each Sunday. There are activities, games and crafts for children during every service on a Sunday.

After service coffee is served in the Cross Street Centre.

Church in the Café, booked provisionally for Sunday, 22nd March, 4pm.

Tea Chat and Prayer planned for Tuesday, 17th March, 2.30pm.

Scrabble Club is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month, 3rd and 17th March, 2.30-4.30pm.

Toddlers is held every Wednesday during school term time from 9.45—11.15am. Last meeting before Easter is Wednesday, 25th March. Summer term starts on Wednesday, 15th April.

Who Let the Dad's Out . Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be on Saturday 14th March, 10-11.15am.

Monday table tennis/games club is held in the Lower Hall from 10.30am

The fourth Tuesday of each month the Prayer and Share Group meet in the Cross Street Centre at 7.30pm.

First Saturday of the month Prayer Hour at 10am in Cross Street.

The Cross Street Café opens weekly from Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 2pm.

Newsletter by email, weekly.

You can view this magazine in colour on our website.

<https://www.dsbc.org.uk/>  
Carnegie Museum of Art