GODALMING BAPTIST CHURCH

The Messenger

November & December 2026

News

Quizzes

Recipe

Events



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From the Editorial Team

The Many and the One

In this edition of the Messenger, we remember that, at this time of year, we have two remembrances.
Firstly a solemn remembrance as we remember the MANY, those who have died in wars to give us our freedom.
Secondly we remember with gladness and rejoicing the birth of the ONE, our Lord Jesus, who came to save us.

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

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



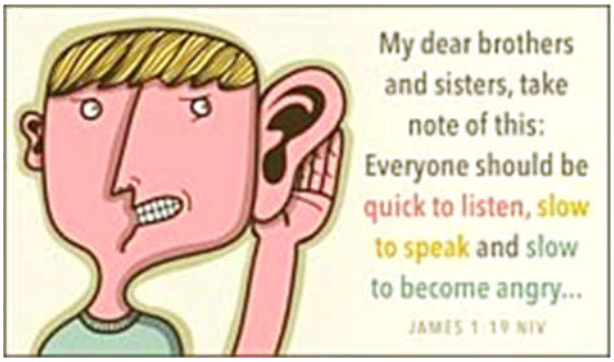
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Items for the January/February 2027 edition should be sent to one of the above by Sunday 13th December, for distribution on Sunday, 10th January 2027
Thank you

From The Pastor's Desk

What We Don't See Beneath the Surface

I don't claim to know a great deal about psychology. However, within my studies of theology, I remember one lecture that mentioned a concept called the fundamental attribution error. It describes our tendency to explain another person's behaviour by attributing it to their character or personality, while sometimes giving too little consideration to the circumstances they may be facing. For example, imagine that you go into a shop and the cashier speaks to you abruptly. It is very easy to think, "What a rude person." We see the behaviour, and we make a judgment about the person. But what we cannot see is what may be happening beneath the surface. Perhaps they have had terrible news that morning, perhaps they are exhausted after caring for a sick child, perhaps they are struggling with anxiety, grief, financial pressure, loneliness or difficulties at home. Perhaps they have simply had an exceptionally difficult day. None of these things necessarily excuse unkind behaviour but they may help us understand it and that distinction is important. Why? Because we rarely know the whole story. This should give us a moment to pause. We are very often confronted with the visible part of someone's life: a sharp word, a missed commitment, an unfriendly expression, someone who seems distant, someone who doesn't respond to us, or someone who appears irritable. But we do not see everything that person is carrying.



James tells us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19).

Paul encourages the church to "be kind and compassionate to one another" (Ephesians 4:32),





and in Galatians we are told to "carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2).
These commands assume something important: people carry burdens that are not always visible. However, there is an important balance that needs to be considered: Compassion does not mean ignoring wrong. To say, "*There may be something going on beneath the surface*" does not mean that we should excuse sin, tolerate abuse, or pretend that hurtful behaviour doesn't matter. Jesus himself was full of both grace and truth. Someone may genuinely have behaved badly, and it may still be appropriate to address what happened. But we can do that without immediately concluding:
"*This is the sort of person they are.*"
Instead, we might ask:
"*I wonder what is happening for them*?"
That small change in perspective can make a remarkable difference. It is a description of a community shaped by the gospel. We know how much grace we ourselves need. We know that God sees the things in us that other people never see. We know that Christ does not deal with us merely according to the worst moment someone else might observe. So perhaps we can extend some of that grace to one another. The next time someone is abrupt, distant, forgetful, irritable or simply not themselves, pause before writing their story. You may not know what happened that morning, you may not know what happened the night before, what they are carrying, what they are praying about, what battle they are quietly fighting. You only know what you saw and what you saw may be real - but it may not be the whole story.
So let us be people who are shaped by the gospel, who are slow to judge and quick to listen; ready to speak truth but equally ready to show mercy; willing to see the behaviour in front of us while remembering the person behind it because beneath the surface of every life, is a story we cannot fully see. Therefore, one of the simplest ways we can reflect the heart of Christ is to remember that God knows the whole story - and we don't.

Jack

Church Family News

Birthdays



November

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

December

2nd - James V
3rd - Milly Barker
8th - John R
10th - Sarah L



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





Geoff and Audrey would like to say thank you to everyone who sent greetings, cards and gave gifts to celebrate our recent Diamond Wedding anniversary Thanks to all who made our day so special.

Love Audrey and Geoff

Ladies Retreat Away Day



On a beautiful sunny Saturday in early September 50 ladies from about 30 different churches in our local area gathered in the peaceful setting of Ladywell convent to enjoy a refreshing and uplifting time led by two of our much- loved former church members, Georgina Varney and Jenny LaForte. The theme for the day was 'Learning to Live above the Clouds' - a beautifully integrated and meaningful day led by these two talented and inspirational ladies. Prior to the morning and afternoon sessions our hearts were turned to worship by Jenny's leading of familiar worship songs accompanied by her guitar playing and prayers.

Those of us who remembered Georgina well from her days at GBC, more than 20 years ago, as pastoral assistant and working with children and families, know of her gift of integrating her own real -life experiences with scripture. She used this with great effect on the day, linking how it is possible to rise above the stresses and worries - the 'clouds of life' - by strengthening our relationship with God, who is 'above the clouds' and can lift us there too as we live 'in the Light of the Son'.

We were encouraged to develop the habit of PRAYING (for all those who cross our daily path) - to LISTEN to God (be more a Mary, less a Martha) - be WOMEN OF THE WORD (know the word of God, make it relevant to today and share it with

those who may not know it) - be WORSHIPFUL and know and FOCUS ON OUR CALLING (no matter what that is or where we use it).

After a first- class lunch, and opportunity to experience the tranquillity of the convent gardens, we reconvened for the afternoon session. It was now the time to focus on how the lessons of the morning could be used by us to good effect on not just lifting ourselves above the clouds but very importantly on how we could touch the lives of others we meet and help lift them above their clouds too. We were reminded that in order to do that we must take care of ourselves. If we are exhausted we cannot do that effectively and that it is ok to say 'no' sometimes to the less important things so we can focus on the important.

We may feel that we as individuals have little to offer others but we were given wonderful examples of how two late 19th century women - Lilias Trotter, an artist, and Helen Lemmer, writer of many hymns including 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus', overcame great adversity to impact the lives very many. 'They were a witness to how God is at work in individual lives and in the family of faith, using their meagre gifts and offerings in the ordinary course of daily living. We may never know how and where and when a word, a touch, an action will be transmuted by God into something beyond our intentions.' Every day, no matter where or who we are or what our role, our lives intersect with others and we may exert an influence in a way we may never know.

We were then encouraged to retreat to a quiet place in the building or garden for a time of quiet reflection and meditate on what we may have learned during the day or on any way we may have felt God had spoken to us as individuals. Georgina used the example of her car needing a regular MOT to keep it in good order and that periodically perhaps we should give ourselves a 'spiritual MOT', which may mean letting go of some of the things of the past which may be holding us back from being 'Authentic Christians leading Authentic Christian lives' . Never hold back on forgiving self and others - and remember no matter how you may feel and whatever happens 'God loves you, full stop'

Truly a day of peace, fellowship, reflection and a message we can all use as we journey on in our life of Christian faith.

Ann D

Songs of Praise

Songs Of Praise Service
2.00-3.00pm at GBC

Wednesday 4th November

Wednesday 2nd December

Come and sing
much-loved hymns
and worship songs
and enjoy a cup of tea
afterward!

A warm welcome awaits!

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BREAKFAST
ON US!
FREE BREAKFAST • ALL AGES WELCOME
Every Last Sunday of the Month
9:00–9:45 AM
Just before our main service
Godalming Baptist Church
Queen Street, Godalming
Meat and Veggie Options Available
Fun Activities for All Ages
Come hungry.
Come as you are.
Everyone is welcome!
No cost. No booking.
Just come along!

‘Conversation Matters’

matters to do with conversation conversation is important – **it matters**

led by Pastor Peter Jackson

Saturday 23rd January 2027



- How easy do you find it to engage in conversation?
- What situations make conversation easier or more difficult?
- What makes a conversation good or meaningful?
- What is the purpose and value of conversation?
- How do you deal with people who monopolize conversation?
- How do you handle ‘difficult’ conversations?
- What things in our culture inhibit good conversation?

Time: 10.00am to 12.30 [Coffee from 9.30am]

No Charge but **Donations** on the day to: **Talk the Talk**-helping young people to become confident communicators

To book a place please contact Sally Pollard-e-mail : pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Or Tel-01483-428646 by Friday 15th January



GBC Christmas Postbox

Please post all cards

By Thursday 10th December

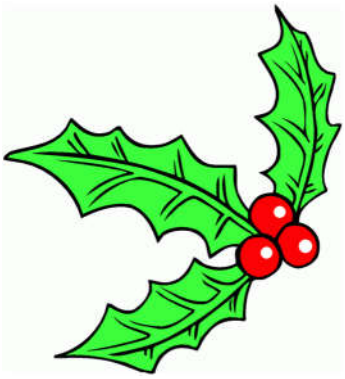
Cards ready for collection

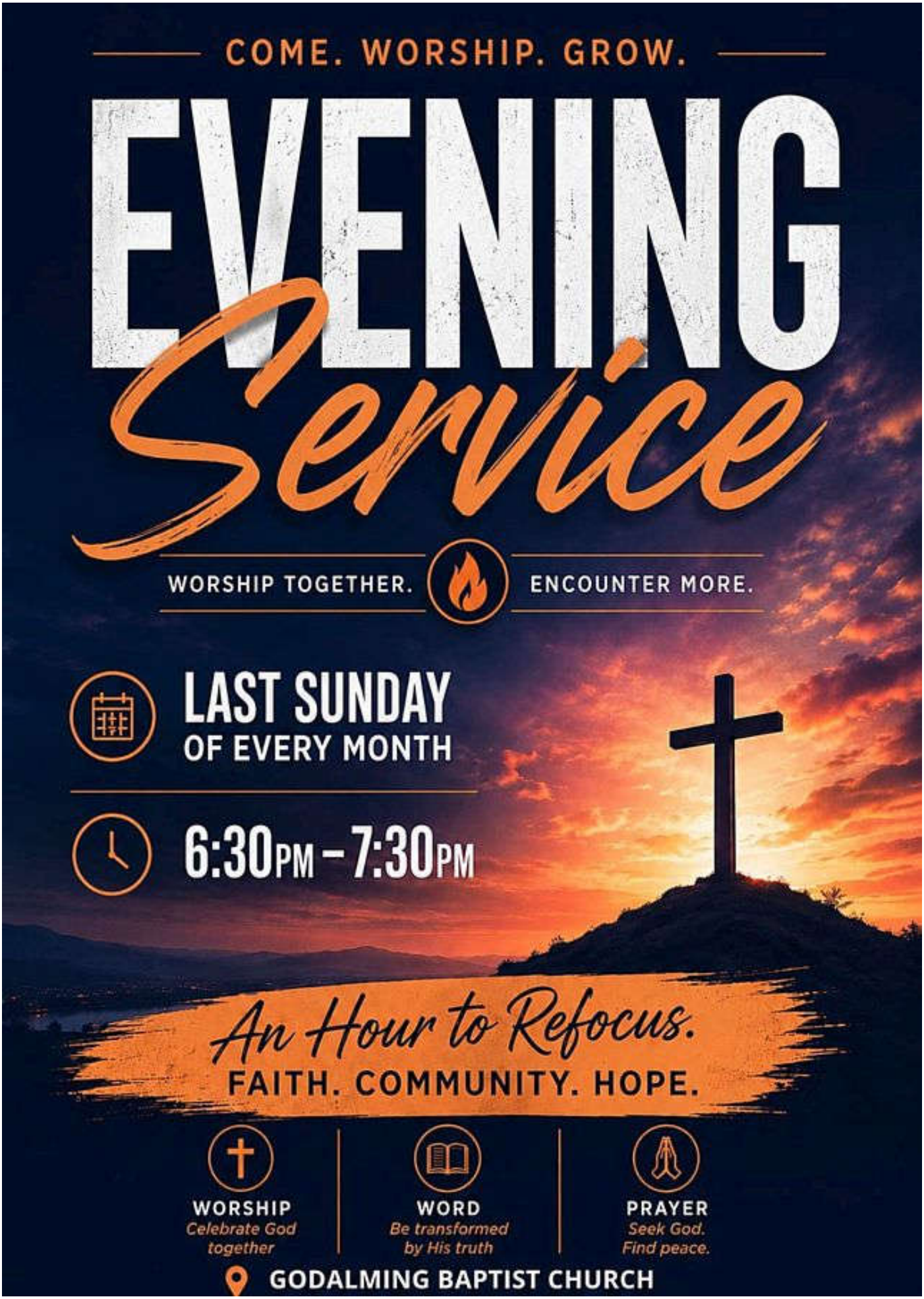
On Sunday 13th December.

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

Thank you!






COME. WORSHIP. GROW.
EVENING
Service
WORSHIP TOGETHER.
ENCOUNTER MORE.
LAST SUNDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
6:30PM – 7:30PM
An Hour to Refocus.
FAITH. COMMUNITY. HOPE.
WORSHIP
Celebrate God together
WORD
Be transformed by His truth
PRAYER
Seek God. Find peace.
GODALMING BAPTIST CHURCH

GODALMING BAPTIST CHURCH







Sharing Love Through Food:

RESTARTING OUR MEAL MINISTRY

> *Share with the Lord's people who are in need. practise hospitality.* **Romans 12:13**



We are relaunching our church meal ministry to support church members facing major life events like illnesses, new babies, moving home or bereavement. Our goal is to lift the burden of cooking by delivering comfort food straight to their doors when they need it most.

HOW IT WILL OPERATE

- **No Rigid Rotas:** We are building a flexible pool of willing volunteers rather than a fixed weekly schedule.
- **On-Demand Requests:** When a need arises in our community, we will reach out to our volunteer pool to see who is available to help.
- **No Pressure:** If you are too busy when we contact you, there is absolutely no pressure. We will simply move to the next person in the pool.
- **Containers Provided:** To make things as easy as possible, I will provide the disposable containers for you to use.
- **Easy Delivery:** Meals are dropped off in these disposable containers so the receiving families have no dishes to return.

POPULAR MEAL IDEAS

If you choose to cook, meals do not need to be fancy! Simple, easily-reheated comfort foods are always the most appreciated:

- **Family Classics:** Cottage pie, shepherd's pie, lasagne, pasta bakes, or a big batch of chilli.
- **Hearty Casseroles:** Chicken and vegetable hotpot or beef stew.
- **Soothing Soups:** Vegetable, chicken, or leek and potato soup paired with some fresh bread rolls.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We rely entirely on our church family to keep this ministry running. You can get involved in two different ways:

- **Join the Volunteer Pool:** Sign up to be on our contact list. You just agree to cook and deliver a fresh dish occasionally when your schedule allows.
- **Donate Funds:** If you do not have time to cook, you can contribute financially. We have secured a fantastic 30% discount partnership through the COOK Community Kitchen scheme. Your monetary donations will be pooled to buy high-quality frozen meals directly from COOK at a majorly reduced cost.

30% DISCOUNT PARTNERSHIP

HOW TO SIGN UP OR GIVE

To volunteer your cooking:
Please speak to me directly at church or send me an email to get your name on the contact list.

To make a donation:
Financial contributions can be made directly to the Church Treasurer. Please ensure you use Meal Ministry as the reference so the funds are correctly allocated.

COOK COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Let's work together to nurture our community, one meal at a time!

Pastor Tamsin Brookes

GODALMING BAPTIST CHURCH



Sat 7th November 10am – 12.00 Noon supporting RSCH Charity Fund

And Saturday 5th December supporting Phyliss Tuckwell Hospice

in memory of Catherine

Our vision is to transform healthcare for people in South West Surrey and beyond.

How we're doing it

We are working to deliver exceptional care in a welcoming and safe environment for patients at Royal Surrey Hospital.
From providing state of the art equipment and redeveloping wards, to investing in staff development and funding innovative research, our patients are at the heart of everything we do.
Working collaboratively with medical and support staff, we fund projects that make the biggest impact on the 260,000 people we treat each year – from babies, to children and young adults, to older people.

Our mission is to care compassionately for adults living with an advanced or terminal illness, and those closest to them, so that they have the best possible quality of life and the patients' final days are peaceful...because every day is precious.

A GIFT FOR SOMEONE YOU WILL NEVER MEET

Sunday Morning 6th December 2026



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



If you wish to give money, it will be forwarded on and used to purchase toys, gift vouchers and necessities for the families – Gifts can be cash or by cheque made out to "Christian Care Merton".

If you are unable to bring your gifts on 6th December, please get them to Godalming Baptist Church <u>before</u> then as they are to be transported within a day or two!

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

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

<u>Items such as these are NOT useful – please avoid</u>

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

Thanks in advance!
Audrey and Geoff

Events

Bringing the Community Together





Woolly Blessings- Knitting, Crochet And Chat!

Godalming Baptist Church

Thursday 4th June

Thursday 18th June

Thursday 2nd July

Thursday23rdJuly

Thursday 13th August

Thursday 27th August

Thursday 10th September

Thursday 24th September

Thursday 8th October

Thursday 22nd October

Thursday 5th November

Thursday 19th November

Thursday 3rdDecember

Thursday 17th December

10.00am-12.00 Noon £1 appreciated Coffee/ Tea served. Come and learn or why not pass on your expertise to a new friend while having fun. Bring your own wool. For further information call Michele on 07525 164409



Future Conservatoire Concerts 2026

Godalming Baptist Church GU7 1BA

A Journey from Baroque to Romantic Vocal Music

Saturday 7th November, 7.00pm

Portuguese Countertenor João Paolo Ferreira

accompanied by

Guy Murgatroyd (piano)

Chamber Music Festival 2026 at 7.00pm

28th November - Odora Piano Trio

5th December - String Sextet performing Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 - Pastoral and other works

Christmas Concert - Friday 18th December, 7.00pm

Join us for a spectacular evening of Christmas songs, Carols and festive music with a touch of singalong too!

Fleur de Bray and Thea Callaghan (sopranos)

Sam Lom (baritone)

Francesca Lauri (piano)

Booking on

www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk

NATO Wordsearch

The words in this grid are those used by NATO in their phonetic alphabet.

Q	A	I	Z	S	O	S	C	A	R	M	E	D
R	F	C	N	Y	O	V	X	G	J	I	C	Q
O	P	A	A	D	L	D	A	F	L	K	H	U
T	A	R	U	N	I	F	O	R	M	E	O	E
C	X	H	Z	R	K	A	A	B	B	Q	J	O
I	Y	U	P	O	E	H	A	Y	H	U	J	E
V	L	B	G	L	C	B	W	R	L	E	R	M
U	X	N	Y	P	A	H	M	I	R	B	P	O
A	A	P	A	P	I	L	E	E	F	E	X	R
T	T	M	N	S	Q	T	E	W	V	C	I	W
S	I	L	K	U	T	O	R	T	X	O	F	S
L	M	E	E	K	G	O	F	L	O	G	N	Y
A	Y	D	E	D	A	L	H	P	A	H	O	T

ALPHA	HOTEL	OSCAR	VICTOR
BRAVO	INDIA	PAPA	WHISKEY
CHARLIE	JULIETT	QUEBEC	X-RAY
DELTA	KILO	ROMEO	YANKEE
ECHO	LIMA	SIERRA	ZULU
FOXTROT	MIKE	TANGO	
GOLF	NOVEMBER	UNIFORM	



BOOK REVIEWS

Gift Of Christmas
Hope Books- International Bible Society

Christmas is wonderful, especially if we can share it with friends and family, but what makes it so special? This beautifully illustrated gift book reflects on the treasured traditions of Christmas. It invites us to discover and experience the true love, peace and hope offered through the birth of Jesus Christ.

A Loving Life - In a World of Broken Relationships
By Paul E. Miller

Love is what holds all things together, it's what we are looking for, it's what we all need and it's what we must learn how to give. Our neighbours, friends, kids, spouses and even our enemies require a relentless, self-giving demonstration of love that only God can produce within us. Taking his cues from the perseverance and faithfulness portrayed in the Book of Ruth, best-selling author Paul Miller sheds light on a Biblical portrait of love that is sure to give us hope and transform our souls. Here is the help we need to embrace relationship, endure rejection, endure rejection, cultivate community and reach out to even the most unlovable, as we discover the power to live a loving life.

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

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

CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2026

1 - What is the biggest selling Christmas number one of all time?
.....

2 - In which Programme did Geraldine eat four Christmas dinners?
.....

3 - True or False - The official name for Brussel Sprouts is Fairy Cabbages?
.....

4 - In 2020 what limited edition flavour went missing from Quality Street tins?

A - Red Velvet Brownie
B - Mint Choc Chip Brownie
C - Chocolate Caramel Brownie
D - Coconut Brownie



5 - How many different chocolates are in Cadbury Heroes?
.....

6 - What name is given to an adult male turkey?
.....

7 - Who wrote the Carol 'In the Bleak Mid Winter'?
.....

8 - What carol is sung outside Scrooge's office in A Christmas Carol?
.....

9 - In what year was carol singing banned in England - 1647, 1747 or 1847?
.....

10 - From which country did 'Deck the Halls' originate from?
.....

11 - In what year was the first acknowledged carol service held?
.....

12 - Where did it take place? .....



13 - What was the gift on the third day of Christmas?
.....

14 - In Germany, which bird is it popular to eat at Christmas?
.....

15 - Beetroot soup is a popular Christmas dish in which country?
.....

16 - Where is hot fruit pudding a festive treat?
.....

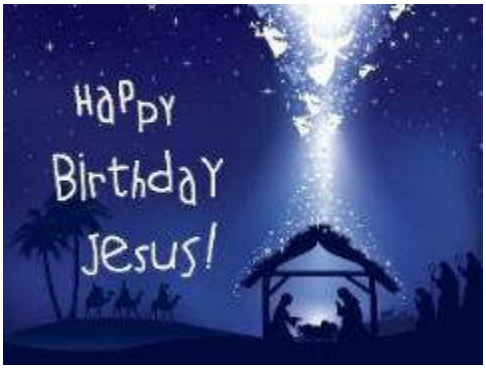
17 - Where in New York is there a famously big Christmas tree and a skating rink each Christmas? .....

18 - What do children in Holland leave out for Sinterklaas to put presents into?
.....

19 - The Word nativity comes from the Latin 'nativus'? What does that translate to:

King
Miracle
Star
Born

20 - 'Silent Night' was originally written in which language?
.....



For answers see page 34

Christmas Memories

Christmas Joy in Unexpected Places

My earliest memories of Christmas have faded from my mind. What has not faded is the intense joy I experienced. My mother and father made the day with my brother and two sisters very special. We would go to church, eat mince pies and open our presents and await a very traditional hot meal of chicken and ham, roast potatoes and some vegetables and for some reason asparagus. And of course, a Christmas pudding with "tickies" hidden in the cake, a trifle and loads of cream and custard. This happened in Zambia and Zimbabwe. In the afternoon we would play games in the garden.



One of my favourite memories comes from South Africa from the latter part of the 1960's until today. Christmas falls in the middle of summer. There is no frost or snow, no roaring fire or winter darkness. Instead we have "Carols by Candlelight". Families and friends gather in a park, church grounds or some other open space as the evening falls. There is such a buzz as the candles are lit and darkness gathers and the world feels alive with hundreds of flickering, glowing lights beneath a million stars and voices rise singing old and new carols. Sheer magic. Sometimes Father Christmas arrives on a sledge to collect presents for less fortunate children.

Another Christmas memory takes me to Romania during the time it was emerging from its Communist past. where Christmas is no longer celebrated. We went skiing with our two daughters. The ground was heavy with snow and the forest trees were weighted down by a robe of thick, soft snow. It was magical. Suddenly we came across a group of Roma with horses and a wagon, and musical instruments, which they were playing. We stopped and somehow, without many words, we joined them dancing in the snow with childlike abandon. For a few minutes, people from different backgrounds were simply dancing and smiling together in the snow. It became one of those serendipitous moments that remain in the memory long after the details have faded.

Christmas in South Africa meant summer: T-shirts and shorts, pretty dresses, sunshine, a shady garden, a swimming pool and the joyful chaos of a multi-generational family reunion. A day of endless swimming-pool games, laughter and Christmas greetings. Sometimes a barbeque, more often cold turkey, ham and

tongue and an extraordinary array of exotic salads and loads of puddings. Our Christmas was never a closed family affair: friends who might otherwise have been alone were simply gathered in. Looking back time has softened and enlarged those memories, but some of my happiest Christmases really were like that - noisy, generous, sun filled celebrations where there always seemed to be room for one more.
I think the deepest Christmas joy does not come from making Christmas perfect, but in recognising the moments of beauty, wonder and connection when they appear. After all, the first Christmas began in a rather unexpected place: a stable in Bethlehem.

Wendy

I have two stories of Christmas abroad:



Babs and I were together on an audit in Cairo back in 1985. It was weird to be singing Carols in the evening after the church service in the open air. It was not hot as such but still well over UK temperatures. It made one realise that Carols such as 'in the bleak midwinter' and lines like 'snow was falling, snow on snow' are not that appropriate. In all the years of visiting Egypt at all times of year I have never even seen rain, let alone snow. On my yearly travels (on business) to Jerusalem I have known rain and on one occasion a light falling of snow. Jerusalem is only a few miles from Bethlehem! It brings home to one that wherever you are in the world the Christian celebration of Christmas is very real. Babs and I have missionary friends with MAF in Australia who spend Christmas day barbecuing on the beach.

***

One time Babs and I went skiing over Christmas in France. It was certainly cold (down to minus 27) but the atmosphere was alive with fireworks and parties in the snow. The French take it in their stride and just wrap up warm and get out in the snow. The year we were there, due to an avalanche, we could not get to our hotel or even the resort we had booked for. We ended up in Les deux Alpes at a hotel almost fully booked with school parties. On Christmas eve all the teachers went off



to the pubs and night clubs leaving 200 youngsters (11 t0 16) to fend for themselves. They managed to purchase bottles of such drinks as Vodka and got themselves in a real state. We ate in a set apart area in the restaurant shielded from the children by a thick curtain. In the morning, the headmaster of one of the schools started berating the children for their bad behaviour. Needless to say, I came out from behind the curtain and gave him a piece of my mind!

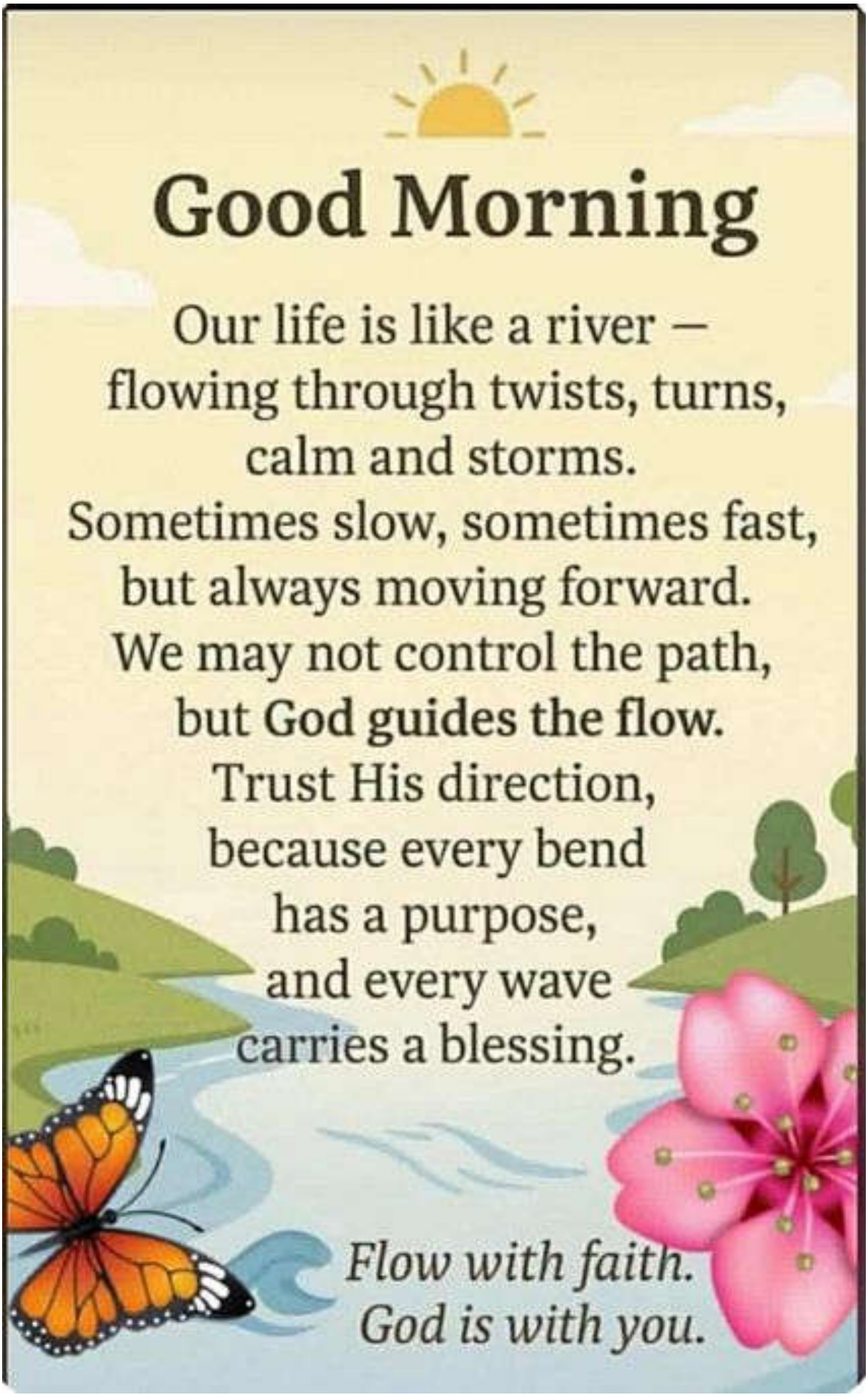
Tony

Christmas memories:



The Christmas after we had to put our lovely dog Bertie to sleep we had the family spending Boxing Day with us. We had opened all the presents after lunch ready to have some tea when Richard asked his children to get a box out of the car. They came in carrying a pet carrier and we could hear dog whimpers - which we found out later came from their phone. We immediately thought they had got us a puppy! They had BUT - see picture. We weren't sure if we were disappointed or relieved! The puppy still sits on our lounge floor and is much easier to look after and less expensive to feed!!!
Also childhood memories: My hatred of balloons. My mum, dad, brother and myself always spent boxing day at my auntie and uncles house with my two cousins. My brother and cousins were 8+ years older than me so I couldn't join in with the board games because I didn't understand games like Monopoly etc.
They had a real Christmas tree and would always hit the balloons to each other and of course the balloons burst on the tree with a very loud bang which I hated. I still dislike balloons!

Barbara


Good Morning
Our life is like a river –
flowing through twists, turns,
calm and storms.
Sometimes slow, sometimes fast,
but always moving forward.
We may not control the path,
but God guides the flow.
Trust His direction,
because every bend
has a purpose,
and every wave
carries a blessing.
Flow with faith.
God is with you.


As we grow older our Christmas lists get smaller as we find out that the things we really want can't be bought.
Characters by Charles Schulz
A tribute to Snoopy and the Peanuts gang

Recipe

Squidgy Spiced Apple Cake



4oz/125g Butter

8oz/225g Dark Muscovado Sugar

2 Eggs

8oz/225g Plain Flour

2tsp Baking Powder

2tsp Nutmeg

1tsp Cinnamon

11oz/300g Cooking Apples

(peeled, cored and sliced)

To go on the cake when cooked

2tbsp Clear Honey and 2tbsp Demerara Sugar

Grease and then line a 20cm springform cake tin.

Heat oven to 160c/fan.

Cream butter and muscovado sugar together then mix in eggs.

Sift over flour, baking powder and spices.

Fold together then stir in the apple. Pour into tin.

Bake for 1 hour or until risen and browned.

Combine the honey and demerara and spread over the cale whilst still warm.

Keeps for 3-4 days wrapped in foil or freezes well.

A Prayer for Remembrance Day

Loving Father,



Today we remember with gratitude all those who have given their lives in war, and those who have served and suffered so that others might live in freedom. We remember their courage and sacrifice, and the families who have lived with loss and grief. We pray for all who still carry the physical and emotional scars of conflict.

Lord, forgive us when we take our freedom and peace for granted. Forgive us when we turn away from the suffering of others or allow anger, prejudice and hatred to take root in our hearts.

As we look at our world today, we pray for all those caught up in war and violence, especially the innocent and the vulnerable. Comfort those who mourn, protect those in danger, and give strength and hope to those who have lost so much.

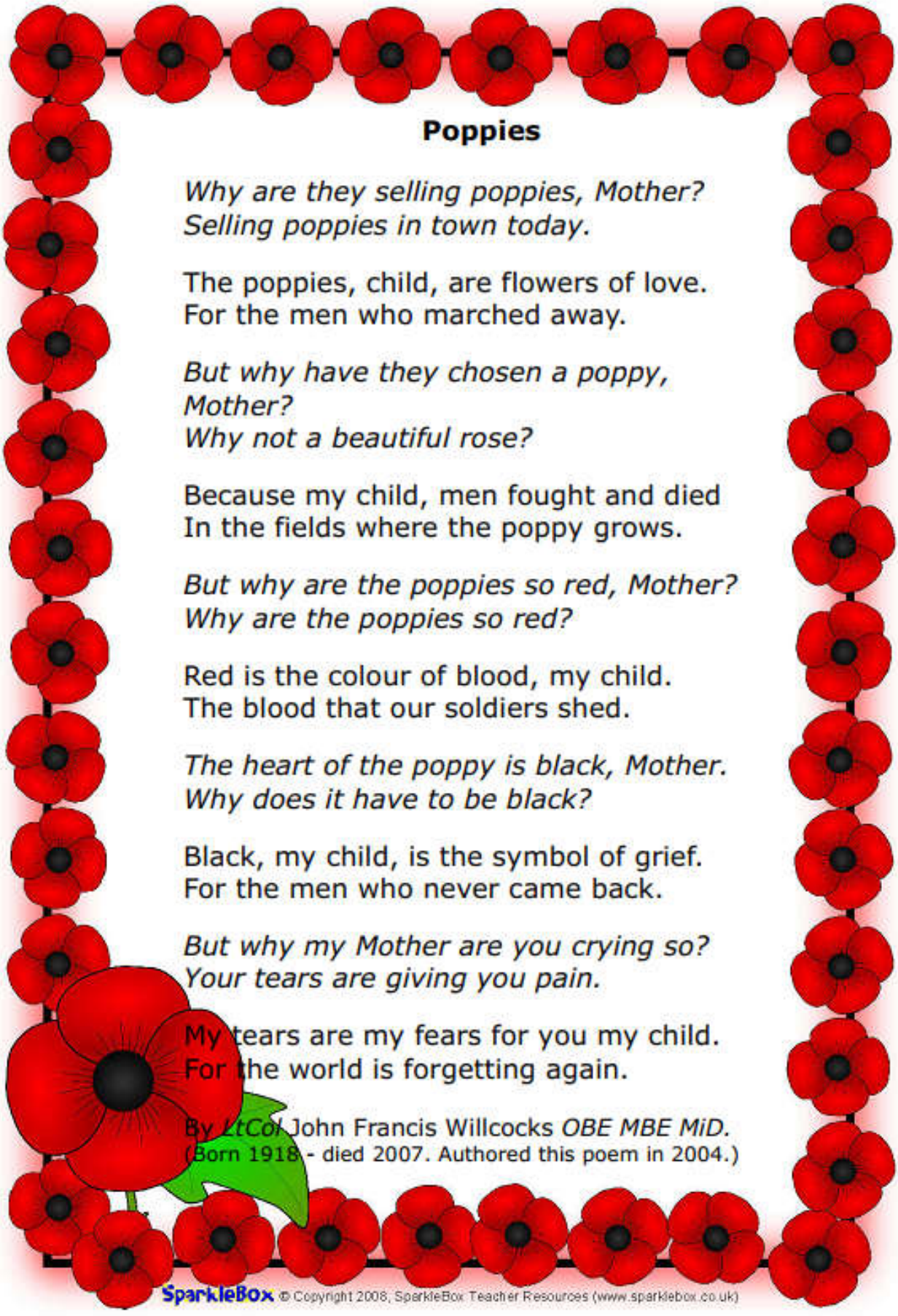
We pray for our leaders, that they may seek wisdom, justice and peaceful solutions rather than conflict. And help each of us to play our part, showing kindness, choosing forgiveness and seeking understanding, even when it is difficult.

Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace. Change our hearts, guide our actions, and help us to be peacemakers in our homes, our communities and our world.

May we honour the sacrifice of those we remember today by living lives of love, service and peace.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.



Poppies

Why are they selling poppies, Mother?
Selling poppies in town today.

The poppies, child, are flowers of love.
For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mother?
Why not a beautiful rose?

Because my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppy grows.

But why are the poppies so red, Mother?
Why are the poppies so red?

Red is the colour of blood, my child.
The blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black, Mother.
Why does it have to be black?

Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
For the men who never came back.

But why my Mother are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain.

My tears are my fears for you my child.
For the world is forgetting again.

By *LtCol* John Francis Willcocks *OBE MBE MiD.*
(Born 1918 - died 2007. Authored this poem in 2004.)

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Christmas Quiz Answers 2026

1 - Do they Know it's Christmas Time

2 - The Vicar of Dibley

3 - False

4 - Chocolate caramel brownies

5 - 9

6 - Gobbler

7 - Christina Rossetti

8 - God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

9 - 1649

10 - Wales

11 - 1880

12 - Truro, Cornwall

13 - Three French Hens

14 - Goose

15 - Poland

16 - New Zealand

17 - Rockerfeller Centre

18 - Shoes

19 - Born

20 - German



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

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

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