



**St Mark's Parish Magazine
June 2026**



THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT MARK, REIGATE

Vicar: The Reverend Martin Colton

Tel: 01737 241161 Email: vicar@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Associate Priest: The Reverend Reginald Grant

Tel: 07385 832372 Email: curate@stmarksreigate.co.uk

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 2.00pm 01737 210785/ 07979 788601
Parish Administrator – Alexia Hartman E-mail: office@stmarksreigate.co.uk

READERS

Mrs Sarah Cousins
Mrs Susannah Dyde

CHURCHWARDEN

Mrs Jane Artis

DEPUTY WARDEN

Mr Robert Crilley

SACRISTAN

Mr James Tanser

PCC TREASURER

Mrs Mel Crighton

GIFT AID SECRETARY

Mr Nigel Perkins

PCC SECRETARY

Mrs Louise Wallis

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

Mr Martin Hall

ELECTORAL ROLL

Mr Terrence Hancock

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Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from
1 July 2026

All contributions to the editor by
Tuesday 16 June 2026

Email: office@stmarksreigate.co.uk



Meet the Parish Magazine Team

Editor: Parish Office *email:office@stmarksreigate.co.uk*

Website Link: Parish Office

Advertising: Jane Artis *email: janeartis@hotmail.com 07831 269866*

Calendar Update: Fr Martin Colton

Proof Reader: Fr Martin Colton



LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends

One great phrase of the Church of England, which is little-known but carries a wealth of rich meaning, is 'Ordinary Time'. While the seasons of Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Advent all have their fixtures and moments for focus and concentration, the bulk of the summer months into the autumn is 'Ordinary Time'! Sometimes this time is known as the Sundays after Trinity, but the phrase 'Ordinary Time' is a better description of the period between Pentecost and All Saints' Day (1st November) as it has something to teach us of the nature of God.

A very evocative phase – nothing particularly to focus on or to celebrate is its suggestion. But just because it is 'Ordinary', it does not mean it is not important or of no significance to how God wants us to use our lives. For most of us, life is lived between high and low points: we look forward to something on the horizon or we are seeking to recover from something. So, it should be no surprise that Ordinary Time is the longest season in the Church calendar.

Abraham Lincoln once said that: "God must love ordinary people because he made so many of them!" Ordinary people, need 'Ordinary Time'. Sundays and weekdays in-between, to sense God's presence with us in the day-to-day mundane, and ordinary comings and goings of life. He is there in the heights of resurrection joy and celebration. He is with us in the vulnerability and frailty of human weakness, modelled in the incarnation. He is with us in our efforts to discipline ourselves and be moulded by him (Lent) but he is also with us whenever we are conscious of life just being ordinary. When our eyes are opened to these things, we will see what an extraordinary God we have!

So as we start this long season of 'Ordinary Time', let us all use this time wisely to focus on our relationship with God, how in our ordinary lives we can encounter the living God, not just at Christmas and Easter, the great Festivals of the Church, but each and every day.

With every blessing,



CHURCH NEWS

Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) plays an important role in the life of the church, helping to support the mission, ministry, and practical running of the parish.

We would like to warmly welcome both our new and returning PCC members, as they begin another year of service to our parish community. We would also like to thank those members who have stepped down for their support, dedication and service over the years.

We wish all our members every blessing for the year ahead.

Please find a list below of the current PCC members:

Reverend Martin Colton (*Vicar*)
Reverend Reginald Grant (*Associate Priest*)
Sarah Cousins (*Reader*)
Susannah Dyde (*Reader*)
Jane Artis (*Churchwarden*)
Robert Crilley (*Deputy Warden*)
Suzanne Baker-Hedge (*Deanery Synod*)
Sarah Walker (*Deanery Synod*)
Adam Baldry
Bruce Cousins
Melanie Crighton (*Treasurer*)
Theresa Hill-Smith
Obehiaghe King
Louise Wallis (*Secretary*)
Timothy Warren



Brockham Choral's Summer Concert

Brockham Choral's Summer Concert 'Songs of Love' is on 6 June at 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, West Street, Dorking, RH4 1BS. An evening of joyful music in a relaxed picnic environment. Doors open at 6.30 pm. Bring your own food, drinks and friends. Brahms "Liebeslieder Waltzes", Rutter "Sprig of Thyme" and classic popular songs will get you "In the Mood ". David Swinson, Musical Director with Marion Lea, Accompanist will ensure a good time is had by all.

Tickets: £16.00 no concessions <https://ticketsource.co.uk/brockham-choral>
More information: www.brockhamchoral.org

Church Finances 2025

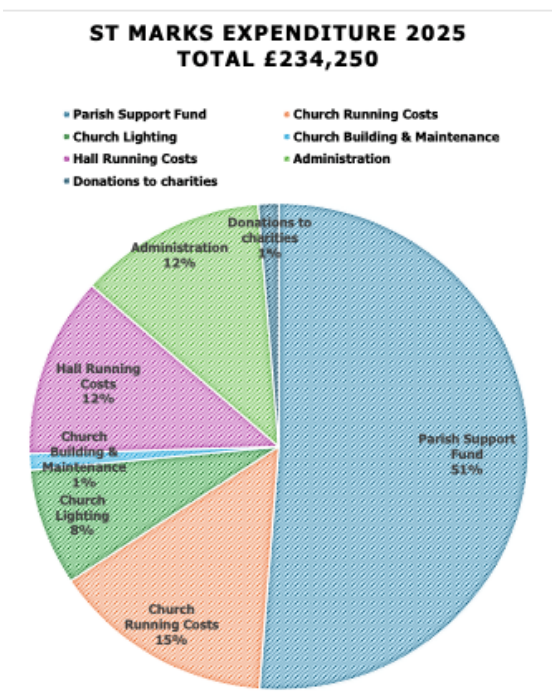
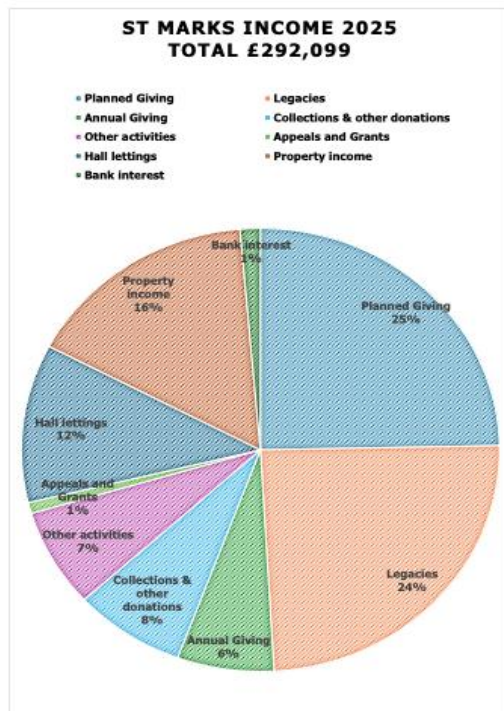
At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 10 May I reported on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 and thought it would be useful to set out some of the key figures in the magazine for those unable to attend.

In 2025 total income for the year was £292,000 including legacies of over £71,000. Total expenditure was £234,000 including £19,000 on the church lighting project for which funds were raised in 2024. We recorded an overall surplus of £58,000 which included the legacies so without those there would have been a deficit of £13,000. As a church, and a registered charity, we aim to break even over a five-year period.

The policy of the PCC is to use legacies to help fund additional mission or development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff, taking account of the donor's known areas of interest in the church. The legacies received in 2025 have therefore been placed in a designated fund for work on the church organ.

On the income side £184,000 came from donations, which includes monthly planned giving, collections at services, gift day, one-off donations, gift aid claimed and legacies. The balance of £108,000 came from hall lettings, rental income from the car park and church property and other church activities. We also received bank interest of £4,000.

Our policy is also to hold sufficient cash to cover expenditure for the next three to six months. Cash held at the year-end was £162,000 which, after adjusting for the designated legacies, equates to around five month's expenditure.



Our contribution to the Diocese through the Parish Support Fund is the most significant expenditure at £120,000. This is in the form of a pledge which is agreed by the PCC in advance each year to cover the cost of all clergy across the diocese (including St Mark's) together with training and other parish support. Expenditure on equipment and the repair and maintenance of church and hall buildings included £19,000 on the church lighting project and £6,000 on the resealing of the hall floors. Other regular expenditure has increased due to inflation and includes insurance, utilities, cleaning, office administration, maintenance, etc. We continue to monitor costs to keep them as low as possible.

As a church we are heavily dependent on donations, and we are very grateful to all who donate to the church both financially and with their time and energy in all the many aspects of running activities.

Mel Crighton Treasurer



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Shakespeare's church hosts Church of England online service celebrating gifts, callings and community

Exploring faith beyond fame, the service highlights how every life is shaped by God-given gifts, with stories of vocation, belonging and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit at the heart of a world-famous church.

The Church of England's online service several weeks ago came from Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon – the place where William Shakespeare was baptised and is buried – using the playwright's global legacy as a starting point to explore faith, vocation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Led by the Rev Patrick Taylor, the service reflects on how a church known around the world for its association with Shakespeare remains rooted in its primary purpose: worshipping God and serving its local community.

Standing above the town at the viewing platform which was added as part of refurbishments to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in 2010, he acknowledges the scale of Shakespeare's influence, saying:

"It has to be admitted that Shakespeare can tend to dominate our town with over two and a half million visitors a year."

"But this church was built many years before Shakespeare to be a place to worship God. Christian worship has been offered here for over a thousand years."

The service coincides with the town's annual commemorations of Shakespeare, when visitors gather at Holy Trinity to lay flowers at his grave.

While recognising the significance of this cultural moment, the service emphasises that the Christian story and the life of faith extend far beyond any individual figure.

"Yet whilst we celebrate the ways in which famous artists and poets like Shakespeare enrich our human lives, at Holy Trinity Church, we also proclaim the fact that all of us have gifts and skills which are the gift of God through the work of the Holy Spirit."

The sermon, preached by Rev Matt Ford, Associate Minister for Outreach and Nurture (*pictured overleaf*), explores how creative gifts, talents and personal experiences can be part of God's calling rather than distractions from it. He speaks of the New Testament's encouragement not to abandon our skills, but to see them as integral to our vocation:

“Perhaps the very things that we have been shaped in, the ways that we are gifted already, are the very things that the spirit of God is inspiring in us moving forward.”

The service also features a powerful personal testimony from Chelsea, a member of Holy Trinity’s congregation, who describes her journey into Christian faith and her growing sense of a call to ministry – including a striking experience that came before she came to faith.

She explains: “It might sound a bit surprising because I wasn't a Christian yet when I felt that calling.”

The moment emerged during a time of family bereavement and the support of a hospital chaplain: “I remember feeling a very sort of powerful thing in my chest like it was very clear like this is what you’re supposed to be doing.”

“I just really felt the love there and that kept drawing me back again and again.”

The service was broadcast on Sunday 10 May on the [Church of England's YouTube Channel](#).

The Church of England’s [national online service](#) continues to serve a growing online community of worshippers from across England and beyond – with viewers around the world, from Canada to Japan offering worship, reflection and stories of faith from across the country.

The service reaches a significant audience, with an average social media reach of 65,441 across YouTube and Facebook and around 153,000 weekly views. The congregation is estimated at 3,000 - 4,000 people, with 40 per cent of YouTube views come via television, suggesting the service is often watched in communal settings.

The annual Shakespeare service took place this year on 26 April.





Prayer for June 2026

Father,

Here we are in June – a beautiful month and a month when we remember a beautiful follower of Yours, Barnabas. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith and he encouraged Your people to remain true to You in what must have been dangerous times.



Lord, in these dangerous days, when so much seems alien and out of control, how we all need to be encouraged to be steadfast in our faith and in our lives.

How we need to remember that You are our faithful, sovereign Lord; that You never change; that in Jesus You have won the victory over sin and death. If we put our trust in Jesus, we are secure for all eternity.

Thank You for the example of Barnabas. Help us to be encouraged and to encourage others. May we enjoy June in all its beauty, knowing that nothing can separate us from You.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Daphne Kitching



International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services – 25th June

Each year, the Christian Police Association hosts an International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services. This year it will be on Thursday 25th June 2026. There are four ways to get involved:

- Watch the CPA YouTube channel 'International Day of Prayer' playlist
- Join one of the Zoom meetings held on the day. Contact CPA for details.
- Use the Pray 4 Your Police (P4YP) material on its Publications Page.
- Engage in its Social Media using the hashtag #WaveofPrayer

Please help support Emergency Service colleagues around the world, as they face a variety of challenges. More info at: <https://cpauk.net/events/>

Parish Pump

CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2026

Wednesday 3 rd June	9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 4th June	Corpus Christi 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church 2.00pm SMART
Sunday 7th June	1st Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Family Service
Wednesday 10 th June	9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 11th June	St Barnabas, Apostle 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 14th June	2nd Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 1.00pm Community Lunch
Wednesday 17 th June	9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 18 th June	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Saturday 20 th June	8.00pm Social Dance
Sunday 21st June	3rd Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Messy Church
Weds 24th June	Birth of St John the Baptist 9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 25 th June	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 28th June	4th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Monday 29th June	St Peter and St Paul, Apostles

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

CALENDAR FOR JULY 2026

Wednesday 1 st July	9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 2 nd July	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Friday 3rd July	St Thomas, Apostle
Sunday 5th July	5th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Family Service – in Church
Wednesday 8 th July	9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 9 th July	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 12th July	6th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00 am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 1.00pm Community Lunch
Wednesday 15 th July	9.00am Prayer Meeting
Thursday 16 th July	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 19th July	7th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Messy Church
Wednesday 22nd July	St Mary Magdalene, Apostle
Thursday 23 rd July	9.00am Prayer Meeting 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Saturday 25th July	St James the Great, Apostle
Sunday 26th July	8th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 6.00pm Taizé Prayer
Wednesday 29 th July	9.00am Prayer Meeting
Thursday 30 th July	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.



Celebrating Fathers

'If you want to know how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much they make of the thought of being God's child and having God as their Father.' (J I Packer, *Knowing God*)

This month we celebrate the importance of fathers on Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's Fatherhood and what it means for us.



At his baptism, when Jesus came out of the water: *'heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'* (Matthew 3:16,17). What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with his Father, our relationship with God and the role of fathers?

The Father's presence

When Jesus was baptised, the Father was present in the Holy Spirit. It's the Spirit who enables us to address God as daddy (*'abba'*, Galatians 4:6) in an intimate way. God is present with us and understands our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. Dads should relate to their children like this.

The Father's love

The Father described his Son as *'beloved'*; like us, Jesus was the subject of God's unconditional love. Dads should assure their children of their constant, undeserved love.

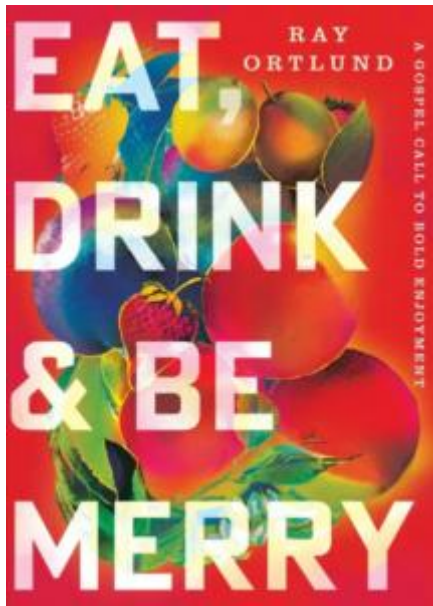
The Father's pleasure

The Father tells Jesus that he is *'well pleased'* with him, as he embarked on his public ministry. We need to hear this as well, especially when we feel that we are disappointing God or letting him down. We should also be aware of the effect of our words spoken to our children. Dads should be using every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.

Parish Pump



Book Reviews

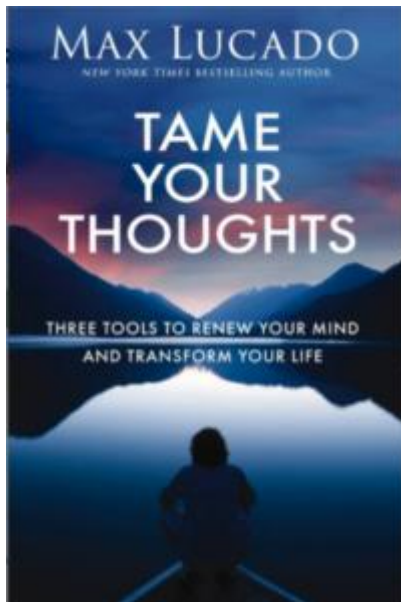


Eat, Drink, and Be Merry – a Gospel Call to Bold Enjoyment **By Raymond C Ortlund**

So much is going wrong in these dark days. And the daily personal demands never let up. Who has the time – much less the freedom of heart – to play, to laugh, to delight?

But God's strategy for wise living *includes* bold enjoyment. In fact, any 'Christianity' that feels embarrassed about enjoying God's good gifts dishonours him, and leaves Christians with less to give their suffering world.

Meditating on Ecclesiastes 11:9-10, Ortlund argues that following Christ here in this world is a nuanced mix of both suffering *and* happiness.



Tame Your Thoughts – Three Tools to Renew Your Mind and Transform Your Life **By Max Lucado**

When was the last time you awakened to a swirl of out-of-control thought? Perhaps you felt overwhelmed with worry, fear, temptation, or guilt.

The way we think directly impacts our lives. Positive thoughts generate positive actions. Negative thoughts encourage negative actions. But the Bible encourages us to manage our thoughts, and so deal with those waves of worry, guilt, temptation, or fear.

This book offers three key thought-management tools: take intrusive thoughts captive, test each message against the truth of Scripture, and interrupt those poisonous thought threads.

All in all, we can learn to think as God would have us to do.

*Have you recently read a good book? Tell us about it.
Email office@stmarksreigate.co.uk with your book review.*



A Lasting Gift for St Mark's Church

Leaving a legacy

Legacy gifts can make a huge difference to churches. Each year, gifts in wills, ranging from £100s to £100,000s are received. Faithful witnesses leaving generous legacies have enabled churches to invest in their buildings, pioneer new ministries, and sustain a welcoming presence in their communities.

Why should you write a will?

Writing a will means you choose:

- How you would like to share your property and possessions;
- Who you would like to look after any children under the age of 18;
- How to support any charities or churches that are important to you.

Without a will, these decisions will be made according to pre-ordained rules, and by the courts, which may be different from your wishes. Leaving a will gives you peace of mind and lifts a burden from loved ones after you are gone.

To make it easier the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the UK's favourite will-writer, so anyone can write a simple will online for free, in as little as 30 minutes. You can find out more by visiting <https://farewill.com/southwarkdiocese>

We strongly advise seeing a solicitor for more complicated wills, or for people wishing to review their existing will or add a codicil.

A gift for future generations

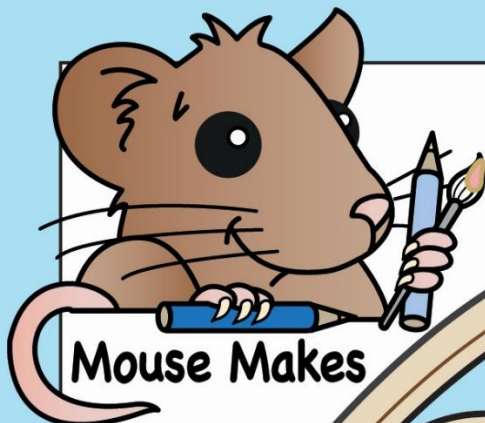
After you have made provision for your family and friends, we hope you'll also consider leaving a gift in your will to St Mark's. A legacy is a valuable expression of how meaningful a church has been during your time there. It's a way to give thanks - a lasting testimony to the faithfulness, goodness and generosity of God.

The policy of the PCC is to use legacies to help fund additional mission or development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. Circumstances change over the years, so church members are encouraged to leave legacies for the general purposes of the parish. The PCC will discuss the most appropriate use of the legacy in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church (for example, children and youth, music, buildings).

You may also receive tax benefits for including a gift to St Mark's in your will. A gift in your will to a charity is free of inheritance tax and may also reduce the amount of tax payable on the rest of your will. <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/leaving-gifts-to-charity-in-your-will>

Please consider leaving a legacy to St Mark's.




Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer



"May the grace of the Lord
JESUS CHRIST and the
 love of **GOD** and the
 fellowship of the
HOLY SPIRIT be
 with you all."

2 Corinthians
 13:14



		
V H I W V E N L R S L A E P L G H A L D O O R E M E W O R D P B R E A D W H L A L P H A E E M C G J Y R M E H O E K D M I R S S T S A V I O U R P N E S N S U O U N T L O T M E S S I A H R L G B F I S K E O M E G A	O I S D J Y I A M A C G O D J M L R O C K U A M E L O R D J I A B B A G E G T D E B E S H O Y R F E T T R A H A T Y Y G H O I E F V S W L A R A O H E Y E N T J E H O V A H I K I N G L E S H I E L D R S A V I O U R	V U D E T R U T H T H A H S R I O S P O W E R U L F L I F E P O W Y N D R A W I S D O M D B E P B V C V W T I R E O O I E R E F M C T R I A I F A N N T T R O T E A C H E R E S L G I F T D S G U I D E T H E L P E R
JESUS • CHRIST SON • SAVIOUR • LORD EMMANUEL • MESSIAH SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR BREAD • WORD • HEALER VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA	GOD • FATHER ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR ETERNAL • CREATOR KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE SHIELD • ROCK • I AM	HOLY SPIRIT GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS COMFORTER • GUIDE ADVOCATE • WISDOM POWER • TRUTH • BREATH LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE WIND • FIRE • TEACHER

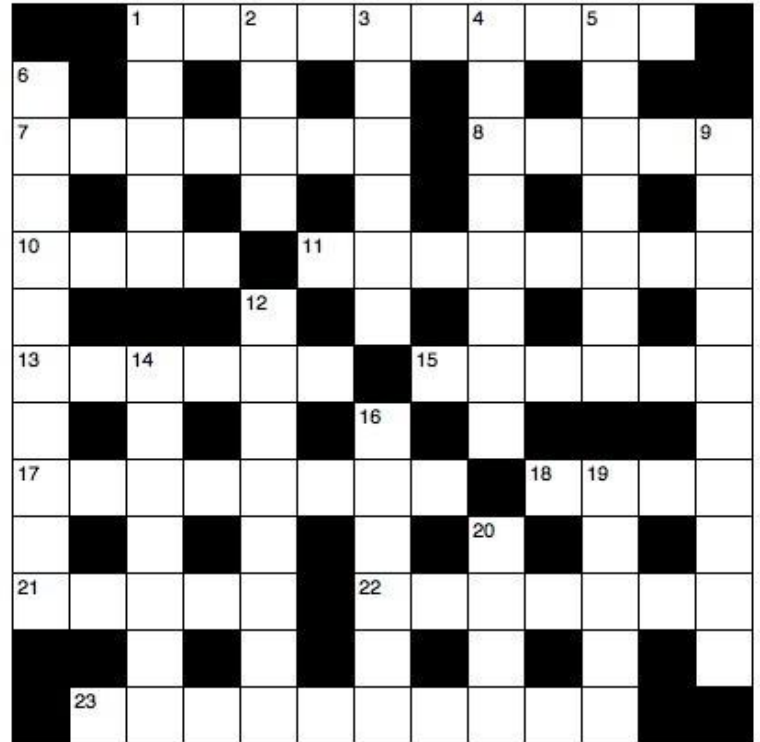


June Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—' (2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force;they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts,brothers,I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)
- 21 'As for man,his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.)(7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)



Down

- 1 'God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no — for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 'Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
- 12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)
- 14 Aceturn(anag.)(7)
- 16 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean"' (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!'(Revelation19:7)(4)

May answers

ACROSS: 1. Overwhelmed 9. Valleys 10. Strap 11. Top 13. Reel 16. To do 17. Incite 18. Load 20. West 21. Notice 22. Wash 23. Thin 25. Ash 28. Noah's 29. Ever not 30. Onesiphorus

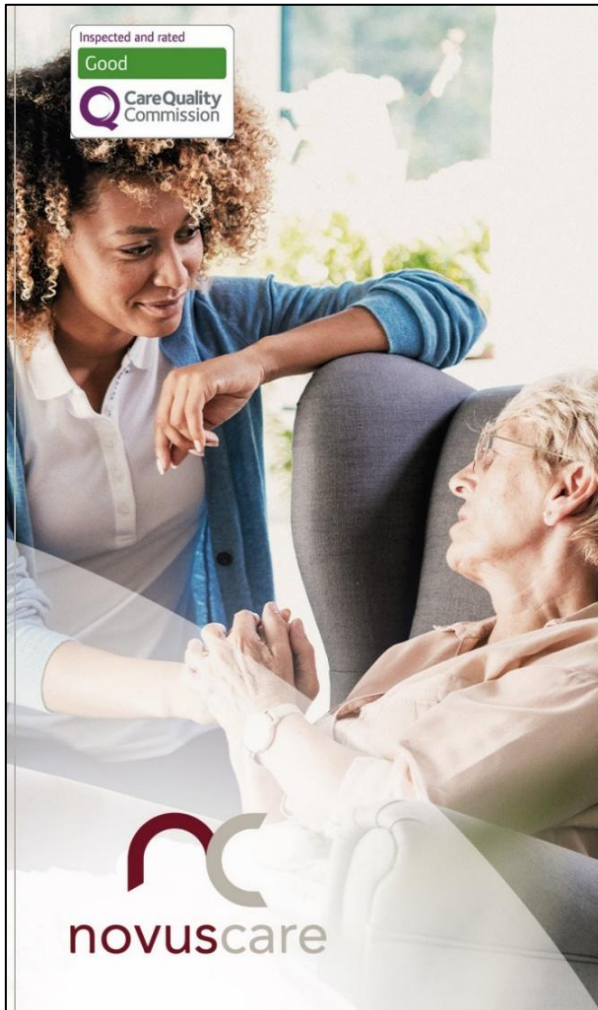
DOWN: 2. Value 3. Reed 4. Host 5. Lisp 6. Ear lobe 7. Overflowing 8. Opportunity 12. Obtain 14. Lid 15. A cross 19. Abstain 20. Wet 24. Hindu 25. Asks 26. Help 27. Hero

Puzzles June Sudoku

2				6		8	4	1
	4	1			3			
			8				5	
		5	9			6	8	
	7		3	2	4		1	
	1	4			6	3		
	3				5			
			1			4	9	
1	9	6		7				2

May Solution

8	2	1	6	5	3	9	4	7
6	5	9	1	7	4	3	2	8
7	3	4	8	2	9	6	1	5
5	4	3	9	1	7	2	8	6
2	6	7	5	4	8	1	3	9
9	1	8	3	6	2	5	7	4
4	7	5	2	9	1	8	6	3
1	8	6	4	3	5	7	9	2
3	9	2	7	8	6	4	5	1



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Time to enjoy older age

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Within our house you will benefit from:

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- nutritious home cooked meals served daily
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Open Morning, 10am-12 noon,
10th October 2026

For more information or to arrange a visit, please call us on
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