

Donations

December 2025

CHRISTMAS
GREETINGS FROM
LUDLOW
METHODIST
CHURCH



Hello Family,

I don't know about you but I don't use the Psalms very much at all, not as much as I used to anyway. Okay, I can hear the loud gasps of consternation and disbelief! So, I thought I would re-engage with the Psalms and bring you along with me for the ride.

Here goes...

The overview of the first section of the Psalms praise God for his justice, express confidence in God's compassion, recount the depravity of humanity, plead for vindication and ask God to deliver them from their enemies. The writers also talk about the blessedness of the forgiven sinner and portray God as a shepherd.

Psalms

The Righteous and the Ungodly

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind. They will be condemned at the time of judgment. Sinners will have no place among the godly. For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

This Psalm, anonymously written, is a spiritual guide that shows us the consequences of our choices. The imagery of the fruitful trees and the scattered chaff shows that we can either flourish through choosing to be faithful to God or be blown away through unfaithfulness, choosing not to rely on God. It reminds us to focus on God's law, Scripture, and remain on the righteous path, under God's watchful eyes.

The final verse reassures us that God watches over the way of the faithful, but the way of the wicked will perish. This verse underlines the theme of divine judgment and the ultimate fate of both the faithful and the wicked.

This is a beautiful, powerful, and deeply introspective Psalm. It forms an important framework for the rest of the Psalms in how we think and speak of/to God. It vividly contrasts the way of the faithful and the way of the wicked, setting out the rewards for following the Scripture, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the consequences of choosing to reject God.

Denise

Come and join the

LIVING NATIVITY



as we tell the story of the first Christmas
around the streets of Ludlow

- ❖ Carol singing led by Ludlow Town Band
- ❖ Live Donkey
- ❖ Hot Chocolate and Mince Pies



Tuesday 9th December - 6pm

Starting at Peace Memorial, Castle Square, Ludlow

Ending around 7pm at the Castle

In severe weather the event will be held in St. Laurence's Church

For any enquiries please email: ludlowmethodist@outlook.com

Organised by Churches Together around Ludlow



CHANGED FOR THE BETTER

In preparing my article each month I find a piece of paper, pick up my pen and start writing without even thinking about it – three simple steps before the hard work begins. This month I will be focusing on Speciose, who lives in Burundi and regards all three – the possession of a pen, the availability of paper and the ability to use them - as life-changing.

As a child, Speciose knew what it was like to live on a meal a day. She missed much of her schooling because her parents needed her to source food. As an adult she had to beg in the streets to find food for her children. "We were extremely poor. I was always in trouble and always depressed".

She joined an adult literacy class run by her church because she realised that this presented an opportunity to turn her life around. Speciose was enabled to save and borrow money through her local Village and Savings Loans Association (VSLA). Over time Speciose saved enough to open a small shop. Her hard work was paying off, until her husband became desperately sick and died. Her shop went bankrupt.

But she refused to lose hope and bought a run-down home, which she rebuilt brick by brick. She rents out the rooms as a bakery, boutique and a café. She sells sweet potatoes, courgettes and beans at the market. Speciose comments that the VSLA had opened many doors for her. "I can proudly say that my life has changed for the better - and it couldn't have happened without Christian Aid".



Speciose watches her daughter, Christa-Bella, write in her workbook at their home in Burundi

How encouraging it is to know that we are supporting the Specioses of this world - a woman who never gives up hope. I think many of us could learn from her. Christian Aid gives to us as we give to our global brothers and sisters - it is a two-way transaction.

A big thank you to all who contributed to the special collection at our Harvest Festival last month. We collected £430.72.

Claire Wilcox

christian aid charity gifts

For Christmas gifts that make the impossible possible

Shop now at:

caid.org.uk/Presents

to explore virtual gifts



Ludlow Foodbank September Report 2025

Since writing a report at the end of June, outlining our difficulties with funding, things have picked up somewhat.

We are so grateful to those individuals who have either started to support us regularly, or have increased their monthly donations. It has made a big difference to our confidence that we will be able to continue to help people who are in need in our community.

We are also very grateful to the churches and a charitable trust who have made generous one off gifts.

There have also been a couple of grants which have been promised, and we are looking forward to receiving those in due course. One of the grants is specifically to spend on vouchers. This does mean that we will be able to give an extra food voucher to everyone who has a food parcel in December. These vouchers can be spent at Ludlow butchers, bakers, delis, and certain market stalls.

We often say that we couldn't do what we do without your help and support, but it has really hit home recently how dependent we are on local support.

Thank you

This year has been a little unpredictable, with some days being very busy, and others being very quiet. However, when things are averaged out we have made and given out just under 50 food parcels each month, with the last 3 months being the most consistent. On average we have helped 115 people per month, 41 (36%) of whom are children.

Altogether we have given out 438 food parcels with enough food to feed 1035 people for a week. When repeat parcels are taken into account we have helped 659 different individuals this year so far.

Open Table

Open Table has been a monthly event where anybody can come to have a cup of tea and piece of cake, select items of food from a table, select secondhand school uniform, meet with advisors, have their blood pressure checked, and generally meet people.

Early in the summer we noticed that numbers at these events were dropping off, and in July only 4 people attended. We had around 16 people who were there as helpers or advisors. We decided to take a break from Open Table for a while, but we are resuming on 6th October. We will continue to hold these events until December, and then reassess whether we should continue.

We are now in the season of Harvest, and have been promised food from Harvest services being held at St Laurence's, Broad Street Methodist church and Ludlow Baptist Church. We often receive food from other churches, including some of the village churches and local schools at this time, so hopefully our shoppers won't be quite so busy just now.

Thank you for all the Harvest gifts that are donated. It is always a very joyous time at the food bank.

We are now turning our thoughts to Christmas.

We have decided that this year we will only give out Christmas bags with food parcels. We have been providing Christmas Hampers to people who have had a tough year - that may be poor health, bereavement, or other difficult life events. However, we feel that as lovely as it has been, we should now concentrate on people in financial hardship, as our funds are more stretched now.

It will also mean that Christmas shouldn't be so stressful for all involved at the foodbank. We do expect December to be busier than usual, so we will be extending our opening times up until Christmas.

We will be giving out toys, knitted items and any other donated items with the Christmas bags (which will contain a mix of Christmas foods) so that people

do not need to miss out at Christmas. As already mentioned, there will also be extra vouchers given out in December.

I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who supports the foodbank in any way - regular volunteers who make up food parcels, donation collectors, shoppers, Stephen our stock controller, deliverers, referral takers, committee members - including Sue who is our treasurer and volunteer coordinator, donors, advisors who come to Open Table, Working Together who provide cake and a good deal of support and Ludlow Baptist Church who started this work, and provide us with a home free of charge. The foodbank is a ministry of the Baptist church, with several of us involved in the day to day running of the food bank. All together there are over 50 people involved with the smooth running of the foodbank - it is a real joint effort, and it is a joy to have met so many lovely people who give their time and energy to helping local people in need.

Thank you

Ruth Davies
Ludlow Foodbank Coordinator

If you had been in Wesley's sometime in 2025 you would have met someone from:

Barnsley, Bath, Beaconsfield, Beverley, Birmingham, Bristol, Callendar, Cambridgeshire, Ceredigion, Cheshire, Clun, Cumbria, Daventry, Hereford, Hull, Llanarth, Liverpool, Market Drayton, Nuneaton, Oxford, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Wakefield, or Wrexham,

You might also have met an Australian!

Carols by Candlelight

Monday 8th December 7.30pm

Readings and carols for Advent,
in preparation for Christmas.



Ludlow **Methodist** Church

Broad Street, Ludlow

All are invited, please bring along friends and neighbours. Festive nibbles will finish off the evening.

Pastoral Visiting: What is it, and, Who does it?

Methodism has always organised itself around the spiritual and pastoral needs of people. One of the key early roles in Methodism was that of 'class leaders' who enabled small groups to 'watch over each other in love'.

The class leader role still exists in places where there are small groups that meet, but in many places these have developed into Pastoral Visitor roles where some people take on the responsibility of pastorally and spiritually caring for a small number of people in their local church, working in collaboration with the minister.

John Wesley organised these groups of mutual care to encourage people to consider how things are with their soul. He wanted groups and individuals to get to the heart of their spirituality and not avoid the deeper questions.

We see this avoidance happening today where we can easily answer the question, "How are you?" with a response that glosses over any deeper things.

Pastoral Visitors never ask this question lightly.

Methodist pastoral care has always been about the deeper realities of life and our relationship with God, where we are mutually open to transformation through God's grace in pursuit of holiness.

Wesley saw things holistically too, with the "How are you?" question to include the practicalities of life: What are your needs? What help is required? How can I, (the Pastoral Visitor) be of service?

Pastoral visitors have a key responsibility in supporting the discipleship of the people they care for. In the list of responsibilities set out in Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD), they are required "to encourage members to fulfil their commitments as set out on the ticket of membership, and where appropriate, to encourage others to consider the claims of membership."

Standing Order 631 gives their responsibilities:

- to exercise pastoral *care* over those committed to his or her charge;
- to *visit* those on his or her pastoral list regularly;

- to *encourage* members to fulfil their commitments as set out on the ticket of membership, and where appropriate to encourage others to consider the claims of membership;
- to inform the minister having pastoral responsibility of any special need or change of address;
- to *pray* regularly for those on his or her pastoral list.

Pastoral Visitors are part of the caring and loving face of the local church. They are part of the loving and compassionate 'human glue' that binds us together in Christ Jesus.

We, as a caring, compassionate and loving church reflect these qualities of Jesus as we journey through life wherever God places us; providing a firm foundation for each one of us to serve God and our community.

Denise

Smiles

1. The nativity play was going as planned and Joseph and Mary were going from 'house' to 'house' knocking on the doors and asking if there was any room for them.

As they continued to get 'no room' answers, a little voice called from the back of the church: "You should have booked!"

2. Who was the Real Virgin?

A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

3. Well known pilot

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures to illustrate a biblical story. The teacher was startled to see one little boy was drawing an airplane. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy explained. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the figure in the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."

Green Pages

A round-up of environmental
and climate-change news

December 2025

St Francis of Assisi

As we approach Christmas, which the world has made into a season of consumerism, consider the lifestyle of St Francis. His reputation as a lover of birds and animals goes before him, but we should also be interested in him because the way in which he did this was a whole life philosophy.

Where many young people may have sought riches and fame as a means of self identity, and self aggrandisement, Francis sought poverty and humility. By "betrotting himself to Lady Poverty" he adopted a lifestyle totally dependent on what God provided – through the bounty of creation. He had no ties or commitments to family tradition, to social cliques, to business groups, or to fashion. He was not constrained by the need to look after property, or ensure the growth of investments, or keep hold of valuable items. He did not have to conform to the wiles of being a consumer. He only had to conform to God's love. So when he looked at birds and animals, or at the wind and the rain, or indeed at his fellow human beings, he saw only his brothers and sisters – those worthy of his love because they were all God's children.

With our 21st century minds, we can see his realisation that all parts of creation are interconnected and interdependent, because that is how God has made them. It is when we lose sight of, or ignore, our interconnection and interdependence that things go wrong: rivers become polluted, entire species become extinct, many are impoverished to satisfy the needs of a few.

Francis still has much to teach us about the freedom that comes from embracing poverty.

Green Christian

Our story, so far ...

We were recently asked to give a short presentation about our sustainability credentials at the Ludlow 21 AGM, here is a summary:

Our 'green' journey started several years ago, with a Lent study course on Caring for God's Creation. From there we started to put the theory (theology?) into practice by signing up to the Eco Church programme run by the environmental charity *A Rocha*. Since then we have gained both Bronze and Silver awards, but *A Rocha* have now upgraded their programme, making it a bigger challenge for us to reach for the Gold award.

The challenges partly centre on the cost of improving and maintaining our large building, particularly in terms of introducing higher environmental standards. The other challenge is in getting the majority of our congregation (yes, that's you!) actively involved, not just in what we do when we are in the building, but in terms of striving to be more environmental conscious in our daily lives.

So what have we achieved so far? A few years ago we fitted solar panels to the roof at the rear, and we installed more efficient gas boilers. Financial constraints have limited what else we can do to the building except to change light bulbs to LED units as and when they need replacing.

In our day to day running of the church and Wesley's Café we use fairly-traded and locally-sourced products, for catering and cleaning, wherever possible. There is no need to use a chemical based cleaner when hot soapy water will do the job just as well! Things like washing-up liquid are refilled instead of buying new containers, and our toilet-rolls and kitchen-rolls are all made from recycled paper. These small things add up to make a real difference.

Very little food is wasted in the café or at church events. It is not practical to have a compost bin as we have no garden, so we eagerly anticipate the reintroduction of council food-waste collections.

These 'Green Pages' are part of our intent to promote sustainable thinking at all levels of our life together. What more could you do to continue our 'green' journey?

Taxing wealth to tackle inequality

What is wealth? It's not just an amount of money or possessions – it is security, opportunity, freedom from worry about paying the bills or covering an unexpected cost.

For those without wealth, life can be precarious, and the cost of living crisis, which is most sharply felt in food prices and utility bills, continues to bite. Recent research from consumer association *Which?* reports that over half of UK households made at least one adjustment to cover essential spending in the last month. Over a third of households on low incomes had to cut back on essentials – these households are less likely to have savings and are already buying cheaper food, so have fewer choices available.

On the other hand, the wealthiest 40 families have more wealth than the bottom 50% of the population (roughly 34 million people).

The Biblical principle of Jubilee understood inequality and its consequences well. Jubilee made provision for redistribution of land ownership, as the primary source of wealth in an agricultural economy, so as to avoid the build-up of extreme wealth inequality.

As Christians we want to live in a society where everyone can flourish, and particularly where the poorest are cared for; through good things like healthcare, a social safety net, and a thriving environment. It is just and right for the super-rich to contribute more to society through taxing wealth, rather than squeezing at the lower and middle ends or making cuts.

Tax could be key to solving this problem. The very rich can afford to pay more in tax, and many want to pay more, to help fund key services and to deal with the cost of living crisis. But our current tax system is unfairly structured so that wealth is taxed at a much lower rate than work.

Government's Budgets are an opportunity to seek justice and the common good. They should be a statement about what kind of society we want and how we should pay for it.

Prayer for COP 30 ... and after

"Ruach" = God's breath, energy, life-force, sustenance, existence.

God -Abba, we are living in a time of climate crisis.
Your Ruach is in the air we breathe,
the earth we live on, the atmosphere we live in,
the plants and creatures we live amongst.

At COP30 and other forums
breathe potential, **breathe hope.**

God -Christ, we are living in a time of disagreement and discontent.
Your Ruach is in and between each of us,
it is in our data, our thoughts,
our words, our actions,
our silences, our inaction.

As experts and politicians meet, discern and debate
breathe potential, **breathe hope.**

God -Spirit, we are living in a time of injustice and overwhelming.
Your Ruach touches each person.
We all have power, together we can make a difference.
As we listen to your voice, and the voices of scientists,
and of those most affected by climate change,
and the groaning of creation itself ...
lead us into action.
Breathe potential, **breathe hope.**

Amen

How much do you value Zoom?

We started Zooming our Sunday morning services during Covid lockdown, and now it has become a regular feature of our church life. There are a small number of our congregation who are unable to get to Broad Street on a regular basis and have come to rely on this way of accessing our worship services. There are also a number of others who value the opportunity to join us remotely on an occasional basis.

However, we cannot take this facility for granted; it takes the dedication of a very small team to make this happen. There are now only three of us on the Zoom rota, two of whom are Local Preachers with other commitments on a Sunday morning, and the other is also on the organ rota. Thanks must be recorded to Hilda Turnbull for her support, because she has recently had to resign from the team. So it is becoming increasingly difficult to do this EVERY Sunday.

Unless we can train up some new volunteers to join the rota, we may not be able to do this every week. Please think about how you could help or suggest someone who can. Full training will be provided. It may look difficult, but in reality it is as simple as following some clear steps in the right order – and the more you do it the more naturally it comes. Yes, there will be occasional technical glitches, but we do not expect you to solve these; they are usually outside of our control.

Even one more volunteer would reduce the Sunday morning commitment to once a month. Obviously, more volunteers would mean less Sundays each and make it easier for us to cover for each other when we are not available. The current rota covers until the end of February 2026, so there is plenty of time to be trained and/or shadow one or more of the existing volunteers

Please speak to Mike Owens if you can help in anyway (or have a chat with John Eadie or Joyce Evans about it).

PS. There is anecdotal evidence that those who log in using the telephone are experiencing a poorer service. There is very little we can do about that – Zoom is primarily a computer based system and I suspect that, as Zoom is updated and developed, the telephone link is falling behind. If you can possibly join us on some form of computer it will be better.

Mike Owens

The Green Pages of the Ludlow Methodist Church monthly magazine are brought to you by the Care for Creation Group.

For more information please contact Elizabeth Wright.



2025 CHRISTMAS

at Ludlow Methodist Church

Celebrate Christmas (Christmas Fayre)

Saturday **November 29th** from 10.00am to 2.00pm

Carols in the Care Homes

December 3rd Hagley Place 2.30pm

December 11th Churchill House 10.30am

December 11th Four Rivers 11.30am

December 12th Alexandra House 2.30pm

December 12th Hendra House 3.30pm

Carols by Candlelight

Monday **December 8th** at 7.30pm

Living Nativity

Tuesday **December 9th** at 6.00pm at the Peace Memorial

Advent Reflections

Wednesday mornings **December 10th & 17th** at 10.30am

Carols at the Buttercross for Christian Aid

Saturday **December 20th** from 11.00am

Carol Service

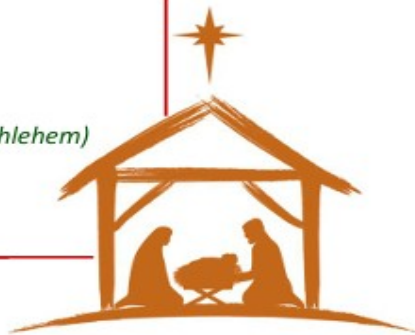
Sunday **December 21st** at 6.00pm

'Midnight' Communion

Christmas Eve at 9.30pm (at midnight in Bethlehem)

Christmas Family Worship

Christmas Day at 10.30am



Holy Days

25 December. We three kings of Orient are... what?

"A cold coming they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey, in. The way's deep, the weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off, in *solstitio brumali*, the very dead of winter."

It was 1622, and the Bishop of Winchester, Launcelot Andrews, was preaching a magnificent sermon to King James I. Reckoned one of the best preachers ever, Launcelot Andrews' words were later taken up by T S Eliot and transformed into his wonderful poem 'The Journey of the Magi'. What a vivid picture – we can see it all! The camels' breath steaming in the night air as the kings, in their gorgeous robes of silk and cloth-of-gold, and clutching their precious gifts, kneel to adore the baby in the manger.

Yet the Bible does not give us as much detail as some people think. Tradition down the centuries has added a great deal more. For instance, we know from St Matthew that the magi were 'wise', or learned men of some sort, but we do not know if they were kings or not. The Bible tells us there were several; tradition has decided upon three, and even named them: Balthassar, Melchior, and Caspar (or Gaspar). But the Bible does tell us that the magi gave baby Jesus three highly symbolic gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Gold stands for kingship, frankincense for worship, and myrrh for anointing – anticipating His death.

There is a lovely ancient mosaic in Ravenna, Italy, that is 1,500 years old. It depicts the wise men in oriental garb of trousers and Phrygian caps, carrying their gifts past palm trees towards the star that they followed... straight to Jesus.

Parish Pump



The Remembrance Service at Orleton Village War Memorial



Residential Carol Singing

This year our Carol Singing around the residential homes will take place on the following dates and times in December.

<u>Home</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Hagley Place	Wed'sday 3rd	14.30
Churchill	Thursday 11 th	10.30
Four Rivers	Thursday 11 th	11.30
Alexandra House	Friday 12 th	14.30
Hendra House	Friday 12 th	15.30

We will spend between 30-45 minutes at each home and the programme consists of:

- Welcome
- Poem
- 3 Carols
- The Story
- 3 Carols
- Prayer
- 3 Carols ending with
- 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'

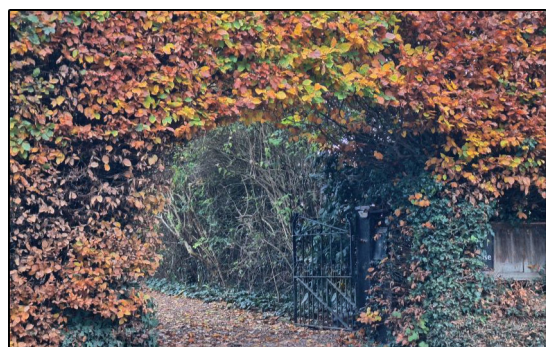
Please let Denise or Sarah know if you're able to come along and join in.



An arboreal masterpiece - what a colourful autumn!

While we are still thinking 'Summer', the change is subtle in the beginning. The first leaves to start colouring up are on the Horse chestnut tree. They slowly turn yellow in August. The common variety, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, was brought to the UK originally by early plant hunters from the Balkans, and can grow into a substantial specimen, up to 30' high and half as much wide. Although best suited to a park environment, there are others of more modest dimensions.

Most folk think of the beech tree as providing our grandest native spectacle. In Celtic mythology, beech trees were protected by their own god, called Fagus, and have been described as the 'queen' of trees (with the oak as 'king'). Certainly, we are most fortunate to have



Kingsland beech hedge

In more modest surroundings, the Japanese Acer stands out, especially those with divided leaves. *Acer palmatum Dissectum* in particular, of which there are many varieties, the purple leaved ones being immensely popular. Even on a dull day, the effect is outstanding. This is our *A. palmatum* 'Emerald Lace'.

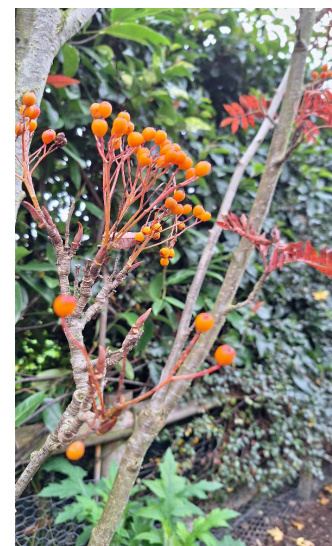


a splendid spectacle locally at the Forestry Commission site at Black Pool (B4361, Overton to Richard's Castle road). One of the obliging features of beech is its adaptability and tolerance of shaping. Here is a substantial hedge in Kingsland.

It is a deep green when in leaf, as its name suggests. If you



wanted some Acer colour in the spring, you could try *Acer shirasawanum*.



Sorbus is another colourful tree family, with many varieties originating from China. Even though some can be sizeable trees in time, others are more restrained, such as *Sorbus cashmiriana*. *S. vilmorinii* and *S. hupehensis*. And there's a bonus in spring with lightly fragrant white flowers, that develop later into berries, beloved by the birds. Research shows that the berries' colour dictates how long they stay on the tree before they are consumed. For example, the first to be eaten are red – just like hawthorn, holly, cotoneaster and many crab apples. Then it is the turn of orange hues, followed by pink. Berries that remain white provide food well into the

winter months.

Is there an explanation of why our recent autumn has looked even more dramatic than usual? Certainly. During the growing season, all leaves are the plant's 'engine room'. The green pigment chlorophyll absorbs energy from the sun, and together with water (including minerals from the soil in solution) via the roots and carbon dioxide from the air, produces sugars. These give the plant the fuel it needs to grow, flower and reproduce. Yet plants are canny – they know when winter approaches.

Each species has its own time to flick the 'off switch'. That causes the sugars in the leaves to deteriorate, and the chlorophyll changes colour, prior to leaf fall. Summer 2025 had an abundance of strong sunshine, giving a greater sugar harvest than normal. As we move towards winter, when most herbaceous plants die down leaving our gardens bare, the colour provided by trees is especially welcome, with this year being outstanding.

Sources: Encyclopaedia of Garden Plants and Flowers by The Readers' Digest; Encyclopaedia of Gardening, by The Royal Horticultural Society;
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

The photos are my own.

BMG

A Knots Prayer

Please untie the knots that I have in my mind, my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, the cannots and the do nots from my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots, and might nots that find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all of the 'am nots' that I have allowed to hold me back.

Especially the thought that I am not good enough.

Found in a Shropshire church and supplied by Pip Hollins

Geoff's Christmas Quiz

1. What was the first UK number one hit song that featured a full sentence question as its title?
2. What is the official national animal of Scotland?
3. Which is the only country that has a flag which is not rectangular?
4. What were said to be the last three words by Joan of Arc?
5. Roy Orbison had his first UK No 1 hit in August 1960, what was the title?
6. In literature who is Edmund Dantés?
7. What comes in sizes C4, C5, C6, and C7?
8. What was 'The von Schlieffen Plan'?
9. Which State of U.S.A. can be written using only one line of a QWERTY keyboard?
10. Which State of U.S.A. is divided into parishes whereas all other states are divided into counties or boroughs?

Answers next month

Quotes

The incarnation of Christ is the clearest affirmation of the truth that man is created in the image of God. - *Lawrence Adams*

To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult each year. - *E B White*

This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall.
From John Betjeman 'Christmas'