

“Methodist and United Reformed Church News in Darwen”

Working together to learn, live, love and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

February and March 2026

CENTRAL

BRIGHT STREET

SPRING VALE

TRINITY

TOCKHOLES

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URC Churches – Central URC, Tockholes URC and Trinity URC/Methodist
For baptisms, marriages and funerals and other enquiries please contact the appropriate church secretary.

Central Website: www.centralurcdarwen.org.uk
Methodist Website: www.darwenmethodists.co.uk

Our magazine is now produced in this format for email and printing purposes. If anyone does not receive a copy or knows of someone who hasn't received a copy, please contact Liz Rutherford 07505 052133 or email lizrutherford@live.co.uk

Dear Friends in the Lancashire East Missional Partnership,

Happy New Year to you all. As we step into 2026, and as I sit on my desk to write this letter, I am reminded of the story about a small boat that once set out across uncertain waters. The wind shifted, the current changed, and the journey took longer than expected. Yet the boat did not turn back; it stayed the course, guided by a steady compass rather than calm seas. When it finally reached the shore, it was not because the waters were easy, but because the direction was sure.

This story echoes something of our own journey as we begin this new year. We do not know all that lies ahead, but we trust the One who guides us. As the prophet Jeremiah reminds us, *“I know the plans I have for you... plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope”* (Jeremiah 29:11).

Much is happening around us, both locally and across the wider life of the Synod. As a Synod, we are seeking faithful and prayerful ways of addressing the ongoing shortage of ministers. In March this year, a paper will be presented at our Synod meeting proposing the possible merging of missional partnerships, with Lancashire East potentially joining with the South. Should this come to pass, it would mean a wider territory to cover and additional churches to serve. While change can feel challenging, we are encouraged by the promise that *“those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength”* (Isaiah 40:31).

In all this, we are called to keep the faith and remain steadfast in all we do. Scripture urges us to *“stand firm, let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:58). Our calling remains the same, even as the shape of our ministry may change.

We entered the new year with joyful news as Noma joins us following the granting of her visa. We give thanks for her arrival and for the gifts she brings to our shared ministry. She officially starts work at the beginning of February.

At the same time, we hold one another in care and prayer. Mal, our Church Related Community Minister, is currently unwell, and I encourage us all to remember him in our individual and communal prayers, trusting in God’s sustaining presence.

This year also brings anticipation as we look forward to the visit of our General Assembly Moderator in June. Such moments remind us that we are part of a wider church, journeying together in faith. As the year unfolds, it looks promising and hopeful, with much planned and much yet to be revealed. May we continue to walk by faith, trusting that *“the one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this”* (1 Thessalonians 5:24). May we remain rooted in hope, strengthened in love, and confident in God’s leading.

With every blessing for the months ahead,
Your friend and Minister,

Rev Gilbert Esambe

CENTRAL (Janet Goodship)

The Christmas season has well and truly passed now (except for a few of us who like to extend it until Candlemas – Feb 2nd). The church looked lovely, with a Christmas tree, nativity scene, nativity hangings, and candles on all the windowsills. Many thanks to those unseen people who work so hard to beautify the church.

Another group of people working hard were the choir under the firm guiding hand of Alizon. Despite now being short in number, they practised hard and made a brave showing with their carols and anthems. In this they were assisted greatly by Alizon's adult children, Rachel and Andrew, both very experienced singers.

On Christmas Day our service was enriched by Olivia, Ann Halliwell's granddaughter, singing a solo of Silent Night and Andrew, Alizon's son, playing a piece from Bach on his violin.

Alizon has recently been absent from church due to a hip operation, but we (especially me!) hope that she will soon be back on the organ bench.

Christmas cards were on sale to raise money for 'The Ripple Effect' charity, also Christmas labels made by Kevin, and quizzes sold by Alizon. Money was also raised for Save the Children.

As well as the church Christmas services, it was so good that both DARE and PROBUS, organisations that regularly use the church building, held their own carol services, which were both well attended. Post Christmas, the highlight of our services so far has been the christening of twins Dennis and Maria. They always behave immaculately in church, and did so at their christening, with only a slight murmur as the water touched them. Maria in particular seemed mesmerised by Rev. Gilbert, staring at him fixedly throughout the ceremony.

The Thursday Fellowship's latest meeting took the form of a Beetle Drive. The dice rattling was fast and furious, all manner of Beetles were drawn and much fun was had by all!

Janet Goodship

Birthday Celebrations: John East, Margaret East, Alison, Margaret Oldham, Tom Narramore, Heather, David Laditan, Barbara's grandson (Ryan), Doris Hamer's granddaughter and great granddaughter (Kayley), Elsa's grandson (Jamie), Doreen's granddaughter (Amber), Mavis' granddaughter (Farrah), Beryl Haworth, Pauline's grandson (John), Dorothy Chappel's granddaughter (Niamh), Nancy (80), Siavash, Beryl's husband (80), Ann Halliwell's granddaughter (Olivia), Danny Wilson (80), Linda – Alison's sister.

Wedding Anniversaries: Alizon & Dave, Christie and Stephanie.

Congratulations: Rachel (Margaret Williams niece) has recently given birth to a baby boy. Apologies for the mistake in the last magazine – Margaret Oldham instead of Margaret Williams.

Celebration: We are so pleased to announce that Siavash has been granted 'leave to remain'.

Prayers - Each week in church we continue to mention people by name in need of our prayers, thinking of Doris' husband Raymond, Kathleen Knowles, Margaret Williams and Jean Yates in Care Homes, and also Pauline's husband Mel.

Coffee Bar Rota

February 1st Margaret East, Liz Staffa
February 8th Janice Cowell, Elsa Peacock
February 15th Dorothy Yates, Margaret Burns
February 22nd Barbara Duxbury, Karen Narramore

Coffee Bar Rota

March 1st Beryl Shaw, Pauline Henson
March 8th Margaret East, Liz Staffa
March 15th Janice Cowell, Elsa Peacock
March 22nd Barbara Duxbury, Karen Narramore
March 29th Beryl Shaw, Pauline Henson

Central Fellowship – 2 pm

Thursday 19th February – Roger Hussey - *Fraud Prevention*
Thursday 19th March – John East – *Maundy Money*

Bible Study 10 am – Dates for February and March TBA.

Flower Rota

Feb 1st 'In memory' - The Central Fellowship
Feb 8th 'In memory of Arnold and Edith Briggs' - the family
Feb 15th 'In memory of Bill' - Paula Chynoweth
Feb 22nd Christine McDonald

March 1st 'In memory of Bill and Marion Brown' - the family
March 8th 'In memory ' - Beryl Shaw
March 15th Mothering Sunday - 'In memory of Maureen' - Stella Talbot
March 22nd 'In memory of Brenda Jepson' - Elsa Peacock
March 29th Flower Fund

Communion Rota -2nd Sunday in the month

February – Margaret Oldham (bread), Pauline Henson

March – Janet Goodship (bread), Ade or Adebola Laditan

Vestry Duty

February – Karen Narramore

March – Elsa Peacock

DARE CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our DARE Christmas Hampers. Thanks to your generosity we were able to give out over 100 Christmas Hampers

CENTRAL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING 2025

SAVE THE CHILDREN

The final total raised is £250.00

Probus Carol Service	£63.70
Christmas Day collection	£94.00
Christmas card postage money and donations	£92.30
TOTAL	£250.00

RIPPLE EFFECT (formerly SEND A COW)

Christmas Quiz	£25.00
Christmas gift tags	£30.64
Total	£55.64

plus Christmas cards ordered £110

Many thanks everyone! Alizon

I'd like to say huge thanks for all the messages of support, cards, phone calls, prayers following my recent hip operation. All has gone well so far - I've been very well looked after and I'm getting more mobile and gradually rejoining the world! Particular thanks to Janet for taking on the organ duties while I'm out of action.

Thank you all! Alizon

Poem by Alison Atherton

A Face of Happiness

Smiles, and lips curling in the fruition of a still pond
that dance amongst the chaos of the mind.
Rest and smile may conquer the spirit of dread.

The ripple of a sunset,
The blue indigo richness of the night, to walk along and set in motion time standing still.

Quarterly and quality that transcends in vast open spaces.
Look down to nudge the Winter into Spring.

Lapping and cold, cold water.

Leaves that alter and fall.
A snowdrop erupts into fresh air and a camera catches
the wonder of God's Earth splendour.

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP NEWS (Judith Atkinson)

Our Christmas celebrations began at the beginning of December when a group of us went to Astley Bank for our Christmas meal. We all had a lovely time, and I'm sure everyone who was there will wish to join me in thanking Janet for organising it.

Our Nativity service on 12th December was led by George and Janet, and this year was our take on the 12 days of Christmas. On 21st December it was our carol service, and it was lovely to see some familiar faces back with us, including Mary, Janet and Terry, and Rachel and James and their baby Jos. We had our usual midnight service on Christmas Eve, followed by a short service on Christmas Day morning.

Our Anniversary service on 11th January was taken by the Moderator for the North Western Synod, Rev. Clare Downing, and, as usual, was followed by a Jacob's join lunch. Thank you to Janet for organising it, and to everyone who contributed.

In recent weeks we have wished happy birthday to Callum; Christine; Terry; Janet; and Dawn's son Jack. We hope you all enjoyed your special days.

In our prayers we have remembered Colin and Terry, Malcolm and Lilian, Mary, Kath's niece, who has cancer, and Dawn's son Jack, who spent a short time in hospital around Christmas.

Fitness & Wellbeing at Trinity Church

Looking to boost your energy, improve flexibility, and enjoy friendly fellowship? Come along to our Fitness & Wellbeing Classes at Trinity Church, Lower Darwen — all are welcome!

 Pilates – Mondays 10–11am & Wednesdays 6–7pm

Find your balance and strengthen from within. Pilates helps improve posture, flexibility, and core strength through calm, controlled movements — perfect for toning the body and easing the mind.

 Zumba Gold – Tuesdays 6–7pm & Thursdays 10–11am

Dance your way to fitness with this fun, low-impact workout! Zumba Gold is ideal for beginners and active older adults, combining great music and simple moves to lift your spirits and keep you moving.

✦ All classes are friendly, inclusive, and designed to help you feel good inside and out. Come as you are, meet new people, and take time each week to care for your wellbeing.

 To book or learn more: Angela Cook – 07904 097711

 Email: missatan23@hotmail.com

TOCKHOLES URC (Marion Isherwood)

It has been a difficult few months for Tockholes Chapel especially with Kathleen, our Secretary for many years, being in and out of different hospitals and at the time of writing now in a care home. Life has been difficult for her and it was very fortunate for us that Mrs Beryl Pickup has agreed to be our new Secretary.

We have also had the news that Ann, who was doing this copy for the Magazine, is poorly in hospital so therefore unable to write this. Both Kathleen and Ann need our prayers and we hope you will include them in your prayer list.

On a much lighter note, our small dedicated team really rallied round for the Christmas Services which we all enjoyed.

First one was our Toy Service with coffee and mince pies afterwards. Always well attended and as usual a very good collection of toys given for DARE. Liz Rutherford gave a lovely little speech afterwards and from the look on the children's faces who had brought toys, was very well received.

On the second Sunday in December we had a Carols and Readings Service. It didn't quite turn out as planned but it went down really well. We had three boys, one playing the drums, one the guitar and the other one singing. In-between, all the congregation joining in. The drummer, the guitarist and singer were excellent. With Mr John East leading us in Worship how could it not be a lovely joyful service.

Last but not least, our Christingle on the 21st. Another great service with Emma and her girls creating the Christingles, the Chapel full as usual, with Mrs Barbara Duxbury standing in for Doreen Goodship at such short notice. Thank you, Barbara. So very much appreciated especially in view of circumstances at present.

Attached are 3 photos of our budding artists. Hope you enjoy seeing them and they bring a smile to your faces.



And finally, our Christingles.



Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the past year and we wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year.

SPRING VALE METHODIST CHURCH (David Foster)

We had a very busy Christmas period at Spring Vale while trying out some new services.

We started by joining in with Radio Lancashire in their Lancashire Carers sings Christmas, it was good to see some old friends joining us for midweek carol singing. We sang Carols on the Green on Garden Village as we do every year on the Monday before Christmas. The weather was kind and not only were we joined by our friends from Bright St, but we also had new people singing with us; over 40 people joined us, followed by warming refreshments back at church.

Our traditional Carol Service was well attended with the theme of Christmas around the world, and we heard memories of Christmases in Nigeria, Ghana, Bethlehem and Burnley.

We tried a Christmas Eve service for the first time for some time. It was a reflective candlelit service with readings and Carols and was attended by over 20 people.

One of the important services in the Methodist calendar is the Covenant Service, held near the start of the year. This year we were joined by our brothers and sisters in Christ from Bright St and we renewed our commitment to Christ in a service led by our minister Rev Joseph Suray.

We said au revoir to Carol & Duncan Turner who strangely decided to spend a few of the winter months in their house in Italy; we look forward to their return in the Spring.

The Sunday School continues to thrive. The children were presented with gifts at Christmas and during Carol's absence it will be well led by Mary and Rachel.

NEWS FROM BRIGHT STREET METHODIST CHURCH (Karen Rowley)

Greetings from Bright Street. Hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas festivities, are keeping well and have avoided the nasty bugs going around at the moment. We had quite a busy December commencing with our Christmas Fair which was very successful and raised over £1000. We attended the circuit Carol service held at Saint Paul's Methodist Church in Blackburn. It was a very joyous occasion with a full house, and representatives from each church taking part. We did of course have our own Carol service at Bright Street led by our worship leaders, and later the same day, in the evening, we had a lovely time of reflection at our blue Christmas service where we remembered those who are no longer with us. The following day saw us join with Spring Vale for Carols on the Green in Garden Village, where we had a splendid turn-out. Christmas Day service was a united one held at Bright St and included a humorous sketch called "the village gossip" featuring Mrs Luke, Mrs Matthew and Mrs Mark, a wonderful insight into the villagers' reaction when Mary's pregnancy became known. Moving on to January, we Joined with Spring Vale for our well-attended annual covenant service, when Methodists renew their commitment to discipleship.

Our Stay & Play toddler group had a fabulous time at their Nativity and Christmas party. The little ones thoroughly enjoyed dressing as the nativity characters and were so well behaved. Our Christmas party of course, had a visit from the big man when gifts were handed out to every child.

We are pleased to report that Pam is recovering well from her accident and we have welcomed her back to our fellowship group, along with her son Arthur, who is now a regular attender. During Advent we took a break from studying the book of James, to take up our Advent course, which Pam very kindly offered to lead and which included a meal out for one of the sessions. We had a fabulous evening with around 20 of us enjoying food and fellowship. Did Pam let us off from our studies that evening- no, of course not. She came fully prepared with questions for reading, reflecting, and discussing. I'm not sure that much discussion happened, but at least we tried. Our thanks to Steve, Duncan (Spring Vale), and Pam for taking turns to lead our group, and for the preparation put in.

Friday 'Time' Well-being group seems to be attracting new members every week. Why not come along and join us and see what it's all about. We enjoy speakers, quizzes, games, and various other activities. You will be very welcome.

Easter services are not yet finalised but are likely to be as follows:-

Maunday Thursday meal with Spring Vale and Holy Communion at Bright St at 12 noon
Good Friday - to be arranged.

Easter Sunday with Spring Vale - Breakfast at Bright St at 8:30 with the Easter 10.30 service also at Bright Street.

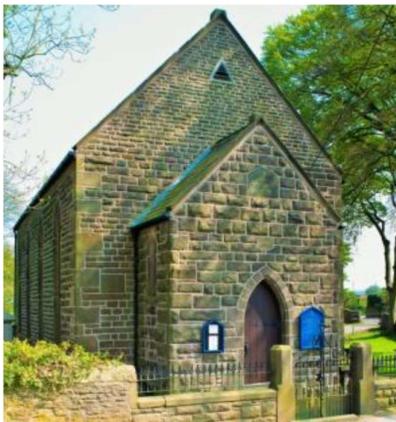
DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE 2026/2027

April/May 2026	Sunday 22 nd March, 2026
June/July, 2026	Sunday 17 th May, 2026
August/September, 2026	Sunday 19 th July, 2026
October/November, 2026	Sunday 20 th September, 2026
December 2026/January 2027	Sunday 22 nd November, 2026

URC CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2026

Date	Central	Trinity
1 st February	Danny Wilson	Doreen Goodship
8 th February	George Grime	Rev Terry Young
15 th February	Barbara Duxbury	George Grime
22 nd February	Rev Noma Marambi	Rev Gilbert Esambe
1 st March	Doreen Goodship	Danny Wilson
8 th March	George Grime	Barbara Duxbury
15 th March (Mothering Sunday)	Rev Gilbert Esambe	Rev Noma Marambi
22 nd March	David Foster	John East
29 th March (Palm Sunday)	Barbara Duxbury	George Grime

TOCKHOLES URC CHURCH



1 st February	Danny Wilson
8 th February	George Grime
15 th February	Rev Noma Marambi
22 nd February	John East
1 st March	Doreen Goodship
8 th March	Rev Gilbert Esambe
15 th March	George Grime
22 nd March	John East
29 th March	George Grime

CHURCH GROUPS

CENTRAL URC

Day	Time	Name of Group and Room
Monday	9:30-Noon	DARE (Hall and Lounge)
	6.00 pm to 9.00 pm	Ballroom/sequence dancing (Hall)
Tuesday	10am to 11:00 am	Yoga (Hall)
	11.30 am to 12.30 pm	Dance Fit Exercise Group (Hall)
	6.00 pm to 9.00 pm	Ballroom/sequence Dancing (Hall)
Wednesday	10.00 am to 1 pm	DARE (Hall and Lounge)
	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Ashleigh Singers (Hall)
	5.00 pm to 9.00 pm	Line Dancing (7pm-8pm) Ballroom (Hall) 8 – 9 pm
Thursday	9.00 am to 12.00 noon	P.R.O.B.U.S. alternate weeks (Hall and Lounge)
	10.00 am to 11.30 am	Bible Study once a month (Lounge)
	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Church Fellowship once a month (Hall/Lounge)
	7 pm to 9 pm	Beginners Line Dancing/Ballroom
Friday	8.00 am to 10.00 am	Slimming World (Hall)
	11.00 am to 12 noon	Yoga (Hall)
Sunday	1.00 pm to 3.00 pm	Lighthouse of Glory Church Darwen

TIME WELLBEING GROUP - AUTUMN TERM - 1-3 pm at Bright Street

9 th January	Speaker – Norman Pearson
16 th January	Call my Bluff
23 rd January	Speaker – Elizabeth - Egypt
30 th January	Quiz
6 th February	Speaker - to be confirmed
13 th February	Valentine's Day
20 th February	An afternoon of music with Andy Smethurst
27 th February	Speaker - to be confirmed
6 th March	St David's Day
13 th March	Easter crafts and Easter Cheeky Bingo
20 th March	Trip
27 th March	Easter Tea

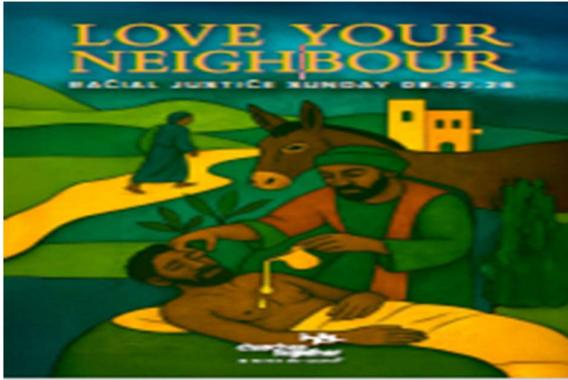
Any questions ring Elizabeth 01254 776294

DARWEN METHODIST CHURCH AT BRIGHT STREET

Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday service – multi-media Contact Karen Rowley 07941 881833 Karenliz1947@gmail.com
Monday	11.30 am – 12.15 pm	Pilates
	7 to 8.45 pm	Fellowship Group
Tuesday	10.30 to 11.30 am	Tai Chi
	6 to 7 pm	Fit n Funky
Wednesday	11am to 12 noon	Strength & Balance
	1 pm to 2 pm	Strength & Balance
	6 to 7 pm	Yoga (for menopausal women)
	7.30 to 9 pm	Trefoil Guild (1st Wednesday of every month)
Thursday	9.30 to 12 noon	Stay & Play Toddler Group
	10 am to 12 noon	Beading Group
	1 pm to 2 pm	Making Memories
Friday	1 to 3pm	“Time” wellbeing Group
Saturday	9-10 am	WW

SPRING VALE

Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday Service & Junior Church
Monday	5 pm	Drama Group
Tuesday	10.30 am to 12.00 noon	Stay and Play Toddler Group
Tuesday	2 pm to 4 pm	Craft Group
Tuesday	5.45 pm to 7.00 pm	Rainbows
Wednesday	5 pm	Drama Group
Wednesday	6.00 pm to 7.30 pm	Brownies
Wednesday	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm	Guides
Thursday	10 am	Lullaby Baby Group
Thursday	6.30 to 9 pm	Bible Study
Friday	11 am to 12.30	Moving and Stretching Classes
Friday	7pm	Karate



Racial Justice Sunday 8th February 2026



Dear Friends,

As we start a new year we'd love to call you to pray for Lancashire!

We are seeing God at work across our region in many exciting ways; people finding faith, getting baptised, people experiencing freedom from addiction, whole families being drawn to Church, children, young people, young adults, students wanting to know more about Jesus.

In all of this we sense God is pouring out His Spirit in a fresh way and is calling His people to pray! As it says in 2 Chronicles 7v14:

'...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.'

We believe in the power of prayer and the power of coming together as a community of Christians across Lancashire.

From the 23rd January at 9pm we plan to have 48 hours of non-stop prayer that will culminate with Worship & Prayer at Preston Minster on the 25th January from 7.30pm-9pm.

We've created an online prayer room for people to sign up for one hour prayer slots. We'd love you to share this with your Church communities as we cover these 48 hours in prayer. Multiple people can sign up for the same prayer slot. You could open your Church buildings, encourage people to prayer walk your local area or to pray in their homes. We will send out some prayer resources nearer the time, but as an example the one hour prayer slot could be divided into 3 x 20 minute sections;

- Pray for your family, your Church, your community, your street, your place of work
- Pray for another part of Lancashire with the prayer points that we'll supply
- Pray for the whole of Lancashire, believing God's best for Lancashire and also listening to what God might be saying over our county

To help other Christians pray for you and your Church community or organisation we'd ask you to send in prayer requests that we can share with others.

So here's how you can get involved;

1. Share about this with your Church communities
2. Share the link and QR code so people can sign up for a prayer slot bit.ly/PrayforLancs
3. Send your Church prayer requests to petebaker@lifelancs.org for us to share with others
4. Commit to pray for the wider Church in Lancashire
5. Join us on the 25th January at 7.30-9pm for a night of worship and prayer at Preston Minster.

Let's get praying!

Pete Baker
Co-senior Leader
Life Church Lancashire



bit.ly/PrayforLancs

CHRISTMAS QUIZ – ANSWERS

- 1) Which country first started the tradition of putting up a Christmas Tree? **Germany**
- 2) Which popular Christmas beverage is also called 'milk punch'? **Eggnog**
- 3) How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*? **Four – the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future, and Jacob Marley**
- 4) What do people traditionally put on top of their Christmas Tree? **An Angel**
- 5) Where was baby Jesus born? **Bethlehem**
- 6) What Hollywood actor played six different roles in *The Polar Express*? **Tom Hanks**
- 7) What colour are mistletoe berries? **White**
- 8) Which fairytale was the first gingerbread house inspired by? **Hansel and Gretel**
- 9) Who invented the Christmas Wreath? **A German Lutheran Pastor named Johann Hinrich Wichern**
- 10) Where did the tradition of Christmas stocking come from? **According to tradition, the original St Nicholas put gold coins in the stockings of three poor sisters.**
- 11) What are the traditional 12 days of Christmas? **The 12 days of Christmas are the last 6 days of the old year 26/27/28/29/30/31 December and the first 6 days of the New Year (1/2/3/4/5/6 January**
- 12) How do you say Merry Christmas in Spanish? **Feliz Navidad**
- 13) What was the coldest ever temperature recorded during a UK winter? **-27.2 degrees C**
- 14) What are the chances of a white Christmas in the UK? **1 in 10 for England and Wales**
- 15) How many Christmas trees are grown in Europe? **Nearly 60 million Christmas Trees are grown each year in Europe.**
- 16) Where does the Royal Family traditionally celebrate Christmas? **Sandringham**
- 17) How many years do Christmas trees grow for before they are sold? **15 years**
- 18) When do the Royal Family exchange their presents? **Christmas Eve**
- 19) In *Home Alone*, where are the family going on holiday? **France**
- 20) How many Christmas trees are in Buckingham Palace? **Three trees**
- 21) Where does the word *winter* come from? **From the Germanic *wintar* which in turns is derived from the root *wed* meaning 'wet' or water.**
- 22) How many mince pies are eaten in the UK every year? **800 million**
- 23) What King was crowned on Christmas Day? **King William I of England 1066**
- 24) How many turkeys are eaten in the UK every year? **10 million turkeys**
- 25) Traditionally, how long before Christmas should you start making Christmas cake? **2-3 months before**
- 26) How many gifts are there in the *12 days of Christmas song*? **364 gifts**
- 27) What is the best-selling Christmas song? **Bing Crosby's *White Christmas* is the best-selling Christmas song with more than 50 million copies sold**
- 28) What country has the most reindeer? **Southern Norway**
- 29) How many Christmas cards are sold in the UK every year? **Over 3 billion Christmas Cards**
- 30) Which country first decorated Christmas trees? **Riga, Latvia in 1510**
- 31) What is the most fragrant real Christmas tree? **Balsam Fir**

Time Line Quiz

	Charles married Diana
	Queen Mother's funeral took place
	Moon landing
	London Olympics
	Will and Kate's wedding
	Harry and Megan's wedding
	First Harry Potter Book was published
	George VI crowned
	First woman Prime Minister
	First TV was invented and put on the market
	Dolly the sheep was cloned
	First Mini was produced
	Penicillin discovered
	Free healthcare started
	Rationing began
	Edmund Hilary reached the top of Everest

Match these years to the above events (answers in next magazine)

1926 1928 1936 1940 1948 1953
1959 1969 1979 1981 1996 1997
2002 2011 2012 2018

Wordsearch – 2 Chronicles

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

Angels, Animals, Answer, Appear, Ark, Called, Commands, Dance, Devour, Dynasty, Epidemic, Face, Fail, Faith, Father, Forgive, Glory, God, Grasshopper, Heard, Heart, Heaven, History, Holy, Humble, Israel, Joy, King, Levities, Lord, Military, Mother, Palace, Prayer, Priest, Rejoice, Royal, Sacrifice, Seek, Sing, Solomon, Temple, Trumpets, Trust, Wisdom

Answer to last Wordsearch – Heavenly Host

BIBLE READINGS

FEBRUARY 2026

1 st	Matthew 5:1-12	Psalm 15
2 nd	James 1:1-11	Psalm 126
3 rd	James 1:12-18	Psalm 127
4 th	James 1:19-27	Psalm 128
5 th	James 2:1-7	Psalm 129
6 th	James 2:8-26	Psalm 130
7 th	James 3:13-16	Psalm 131
8 th	Matthew 5:13-20	Psalm 112
9 th	Ezekiel 1:2-11	Psalm 134
10 th	Ezekiel 2:1-10	Psalm 135:1-7
11 th	Ezekiel 3:1-14	Psalm 135:13-21
12 th	Ezekiel 9:1-4	Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26
13 th	Ezekiel 10:4-22	Psalm 137:1-6
14 th	Ezekiel 11:14-25	Psalm 138
15 th	Matthew 17:1-9	Psalm 99
16 th	Exodus 33:7-23	Psalm 139
17 th	1 Kings 19:1-3, 9-18	Psalm 141:1-5
18 th	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Psalm 51:1-17
19 th	Jonah 3:1-10	Psalm 143:1-8
20 th	Jonah 4:1-11	Psalm 144
21 st	Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalm 146
22 nd	Matthew 4:1-11	Psalm 32
23 rd	2 Corinthians 1:1-11	Psalm 1
24 th	2 Corinthians 1:12-23	Psalm 2:1-8
25 th	2 Corinthians 2:1-11	Psalm 3:1-6
26 th	2 Corinthians 2:12-17	Psalm 4
27 th	2 Corinthians 3:1-11	Psalm 5:1-8
28 th	2 Corinthians 3:12-18	Psalm 6:1-9

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1 st	John 3:1-17	Psalm 121
2 nd	2 Corinthians 4:1-12	Psalm 8
3 rd	2 Corinthians 4:13-18	Psalm 9:1-11
4 th	2 Corinthians 5:1-10	Psalm 11:1-5
5 th	2 Corinthians 5:11-15	Psalm 13
6 th	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Psalm 15
7 th	2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1	Psalm 16
8 th	John 4:5-42	Psalm 95
9 th	2 Corinthians 7:2-16	Psalm 17:1-8
10 th	2 Corinthians 8:1-12	Psalm 18:1-19
11 th	2 Corinthians 8:13-24	Psalm 19
12 th	2 Corinthians 9:1-15	Psalm 20
13 th	2 Corinthians 10:1-11	Psalm 21:1-7
14 th	2 Corinthians 10:12-18	Psalm 23
15 th	John 19:25-27	Psalm 34:11-20
16 th	2 Corinthians 11:1-11	Psalm 144
17 th	2 Corinthians 11:12-21a	Psalm 145
18 th	2 Corinthians 11:21b-33	Psalm 146
19 th	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Psalm 147
20 th	2 Corinthians 12:11-21	Psalm 148
21 st	2 Corinthians 13:1-13	Psalm 149
22 nd	John 11:1-45	Psalm 130
23 rd	Song of Solomon 2:1-17	Psalm 100
24 th	Song of Solomon 3:1-5	Psalm 102:1-17
25 th	Song of Solomon 5:2-8	Psalm 102:18-28
26 th	Song of Solomon 7:10-13	Psalm 105:4-9
27 th	Song of Solomon 8:1-4	Psalm 126
28 th	Song of Solomon 8:5b-7	Psalm 121
29 th	Matthew 27:11-54	Psalm 31:9-16
30 th	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 36:5-11
31 st	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 71:1-14

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FORMAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Spring Vale: Guides, Brownies, Rainbows;

Methodist at Bright Street: Brownies, Rainbows

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS

Weekday Groups at Spring Vale, Trinity and Bright Street

ENQUIRIES:

URC Churches – Central URC, Tockholes URC and Trinity URC/Methodist

For baptisms, marriages and funerals and any other enquires please contact the appropriate church secretary.

Methodist Churches—please contact the Minister or Stewards.