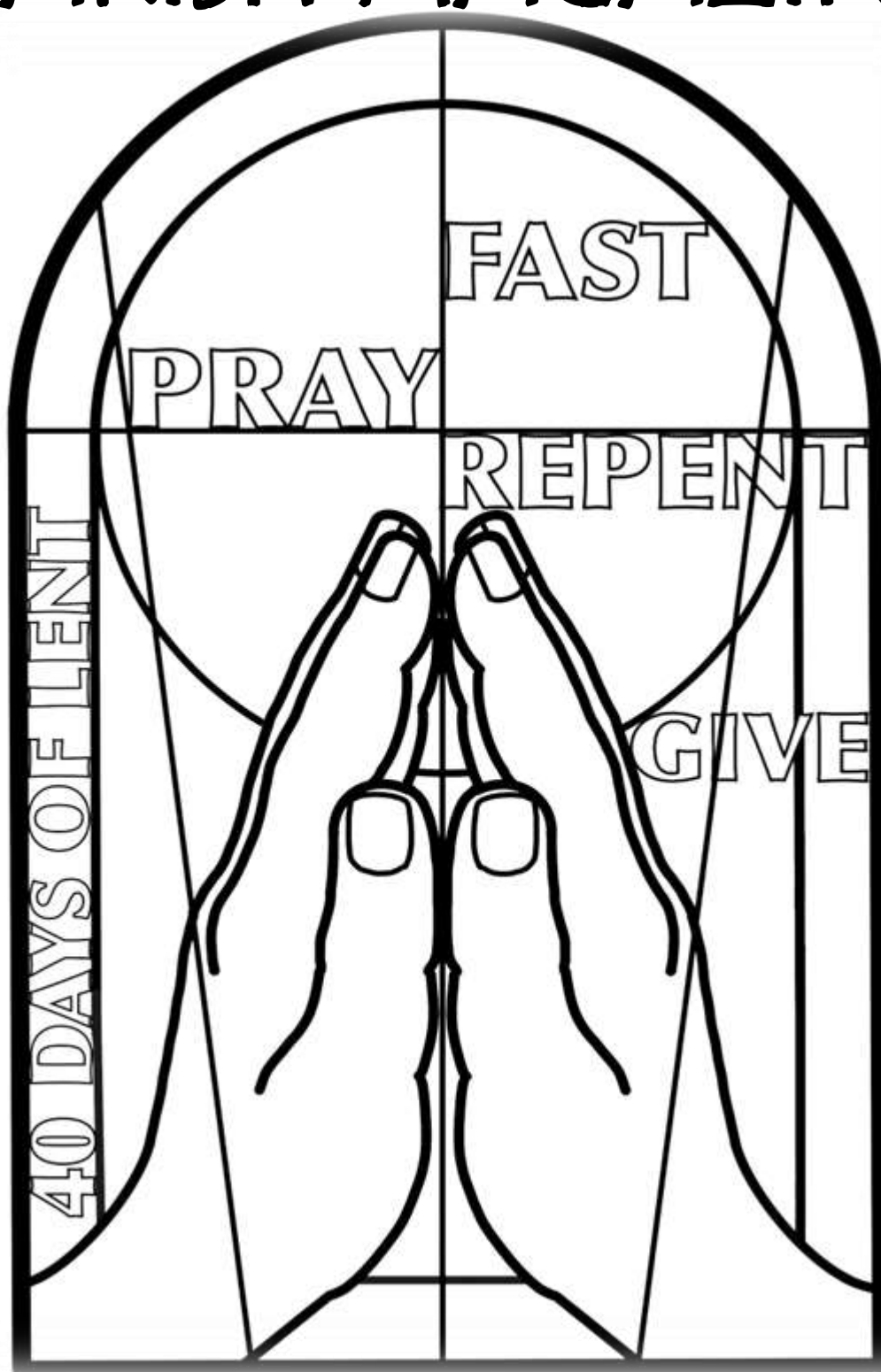


Parish of St Andrew's and St Peter's, South Shoebury

PARISH MAGAZINE



FEBRUARY 2026

Suggested donation 50p

Loving God and our Neighbours in South Shoebury

PARISH OF SOUTH SHOEBOURY

FEBRUARY 2026

- 1 Cover page
- 2 Contents
- 3 Services in February
- 4 Information about our regular
daily, weekly and monthly services
- 5 Church activities and groups
- 6 Dates for your diaries, from the
register, birthdays
- 7 Bible reading notes and notices
- 8 Letter from Louise
- 10 Crossword
- 11 Shoeboxes 2025
- 12 Lent Groups Info
- 13 Adverts
- 14 Graduation and Building Project
update
- 15 Adverts
- 16 14th February – Aspects of
Romantic Love
- 17 Foodbank Update
- 18 Adverts
- 19 God in the Sciences – Fearfully
and Wonderfully Made
- 20 Giving
- 22 Adverts
- 23 Christmas Concert Thanks and
Ash Wednesday
- 24 Picture Parable – The Big Bash!
- 25 Parish People
- 26 Church Hall Activities
- 27 Church Hall Hire & Crossword Solutions
- 28 Mouse Makes





SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Sunday February 1st

8am Holy Communion at St Andrew's Hall
9.30am Family Service at St Andrew's Hall
11am Family Service at St Peter's
6pm Taizé Service at St Andrew's Hall

Thursday February 5th

2.30pm Afternoon Service at St Peter's

Sunday February 8th

8am Holy Communion at St Andrew's Hall
9.30am Morning Prayer at St Andrew's Hall
11am Holy Communion at St Peter's
3.30pm Messy Church at St Peter's

Sunday February 15th

8am Holy Communion at St Andrew's Hall
9.30am Morning Prayer at St Andrew's Hall
11am Morning Prayer at St Peter's

Ash Wednesday February 18th

Services at 10am and 7.30pm at St Andrew's Hall back room

Sunday February 22nd

8am Holy Communion at St Andrew's Hall
9.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's Hall
11am Holy Communion at St Peter's

Note: Family Communion is paused until the building work in St Andrew's is completed.



DAILY MORNING PRAYER

Morning Prayer is said at St Andrew's at 9am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Morning Prayer is said at St Peter's at 9am on Saturdays.

The services last approximately 20 minutes and all are welcome. There may be some disruption due to Bank Holidays.

These services are available to read or listen to on the Church of England website.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

WEEKLY SERVICES

Tuesdays 10.30am

Pram Service at St Peter's

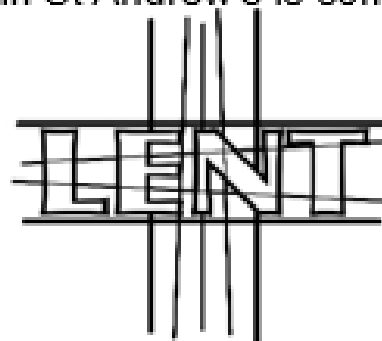
A short service of songs and a Bible Story for pre-school children. This happens during our Tea, Toast and Toddlers morning (9.00-11.00am)

Wednesdays 10am Holy Communion in St Andrew's Church Hall

A 40-minute service from the Book of Common Prayer, followed by refreshments in the church hall.

BE STILL

Will resume once the building work in St Andrew's is complete.



MONTHLY SERVICES

6-7pm Sunday February 1st

Taizé Service in St Andrew's Hall. Evening Prayer with chants from the Taizé community, candles and silence.

2.30pm Thursday February 5th

Afternoon Service at St Peter's. 30 minutes of singing familiar hymns, Bible readings, prayers and shared reflection. Followed by refreshments. All welcome.

3.30-4.30pm Sunday February

8th Messy Church at St Peter's Craft, Bible story and singing for all the family.

Family Communion

Is paused until building work in St Andrew's is completed

SERVICES IN CARE HOMES

Autumn Cottage at 6.15pm on Monday February 9th

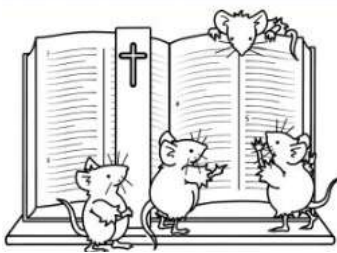
Kathryn Court at 2pm on Thursday February 12th

BIBLE STUDY

Will meet from 2-3.30pm in St Peter's Church on Mondays. There is parking outside and the church is accessible to wheelchairs.

A friendly and supportive group, we are currently looking at the Ten Commandments. This is open to all.

Please note, this will become one of our Lent Groups as from February 23rd.



TEA, TOAST AND TODDLERS

Tuesdays, 9-11am at St Peter's

Group for pre-school children, babies and their carers.

Refreshments, lots of toys to play with.

10.30am Singing, Bible story and a prayer. All welcome.

Please contact Mary for more information 07948 098959

SINGING FOR THE SOUL

Monday nights 8pm usually at St Peter's but occasionally at St Andrew's. A new community choir, all welcome. Contact Sandra for more information on 01702 294043

CHURCH FUN CLUB

After-school club for primary school children. The children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Games, Bible stories and singing.

We meet most Tuesdays in term-time, **3.30-4.30pm**

February 3rd, 10th, and 24th in St Andrew's Church Hall.

Contact Louise for more details (01702 292778)

YOUTH GROUP

The Tuesday evening group meets fortnightly in term time:

February 10th and 24th

5pm -6.15pm in St Andrew's

Hall. This group is for all young people in Years 7 and upwards.

Using craft, discussion and games we will explore our faith and learn more together.

Contact Louise for more information (01702 292778)

TUESDAYS AT TWO

Mostly for retired people, for companionship and chat.

St Andrew's Hall, back room, 2-4pm every Tuesday.

Please contact Geoff for more information 01702 296249





**March 1st First Communions in
St Andrew's Hall at 9.30am**

Mar 15th Mothering Sunday
Family Services with distribution
of flowers at 9.30am and 11am

April 2nd Maundy Thursday

April 3rd Good Friday

April 5th Easter Sunday

**April 25th Quiz Night at St
Peter's**

May 14th Ascension Day

May 24th Pentecost Sunday

**July 25th Quiz Night at St
Peter's**

Oct 4th Harvest Festival

Oct 24th Quiz Night at St Peter's

Nov 8th Remembrance Sunday

Nov 29th Advent Sunday



We will no doubt have a variety of services and events throughout the year. Is there something you would like to suggest as an activity? Is this something you can help us with? Please get in touch with Louise!

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

Dec 7th Ava Chase

Funerals

Dec 10th Pat Morant (78)

Dec 12th Elizabeth Gocher

Dec 22nd Patricia Brittain (91)

Jan 16th Pat Dawson (90)

Jan 16th Jennifer Ball (82)

Jan 20th Daley Keeling (41)

Jan 23rd Peter Allen (86)

Jan 26th Chris Perry (70)

Birthdays This Month

Feb 3rd Barbara Holmes

Feb 4th Caroline Dedman

Feb 10th Judith Hand

Feb 17th Peter Kelly

Feb 27th Len Ball

Feb 28th Dean Dollman

BIRTHDAYS

Name:

Address:

Birthday:

I give permission for you to hold my details for the purpose of adding my name to the list here in the magazine and sending me a card from the church.

Signed.....

(Your details will be held securely on a computer. They will not be passed to any third parties.)

Please hand this to Louise

BIBLE READING NOTES

Daily Bread Bible reading notes provide the reader with a passage from the Bible to read, a prayer and a thought for the day following on from the daily reading. They are a very popular way of helping us to read and understand more about our faith. It also gives encouragement and teaching.

Would you like to receive a free copy each quarter of the year? Speak to myself or Louise. I'm at St Andrew's most Wednesday mornings or St Peter's on a Sunday.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Carol Rawson

STAMPS

Many thanks for all the wonderful stamps you have been giving to Jane for the Animal rescue centres. We collect them all year round. Please bring to either church. Thank you!

Jane Gray

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Do you have any interesting news, articles, photos or information that you would like to be included in the magazine?

If you have, please email them to Steve Thomas by the 18th of the month at

southshoeburyparish@outlook.com

Head your email, "*Parish Magazine*".

Follow us on facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthShoeburyParishPage>

"St Andrews & St Peters, South Shoebury Parish"

DONATIONS FOR THE FOODBANK AND HARP

We continue to collect items for the Food Bank and HARP.

Please only leave non-perishable items, tins, packets, toiletries etc.

We can't guarantee to pass on the items before they go stale! Items may be left in the box on Louise's doorstep (42 Church Road) or in the box at St Peter's

LETTER FROM REVD LOUISE

Dear Friends,

I hope it's not too late for me to wish you a very blessed 2026! I'd also like to thank you so much for the many cards and gifts which you so kindly gave me for Christmas. And finally, to thank you for your hard work over Christmas with all the services, the refreshments, the decorating of the churches, the welcome you offered visitors and the excellent teamwork all round!

Some of you may have started worshipping at St Andrew's or St Peter's since Christmas and we extend a very special welcome to you. St Andrew's and St Peter's are sister churches, which means that we work together and are really very similar. So, if you oversleep, don't give up on church for the day, maybe come to a later service?! You will be made very welcome whichever church you attend.

For the next few weeks, St Andrew's services will all take place in the church hall as we have the builders in working on the long-awaited new heating etc. I enjoy leading worship in the hall... it's a bit like being on a camping holiday. It's not the same but we sit next to different people, see things in a slightly different light and, to be honest, it's a great deal warmer than in the church.

As a church community, as well as drinking lots of cups of tea, we have a great many services, times when we join together in worship of God. But what is worship? The word 'worship' means 'worth ship'. It's about respect, giving due honour. So, when we *worship* God, we are responding to him as he is; we are giving him his worth. We sing and speak about how special he is to us. We offer all that we are and have, in response to his love and kindness. Worship can take many forms: there's no right or wrong way. It can be quiet and reflective, loud and exuberant. Worship can include music, but it doesn't have to. It can use lots of words, or just a few. It can include elaborate ritual or be very simple. In worship we use our bodies: we sit, stand, kneel, clap, raise our hands, make the sign of the cross, put our hands out to receive Holy Communion. We listen, we look, we feel in our hearts and we notice and appreciate the presence of God, by his Spirit.

A number of you recently have commented on how calm you find our services. I don't think you mean they are boring! Rather, you find peace in worship. In our services we try to give God's Spirit time to draw close to us. We don't rush through services: we say the words carefully and have chance to think about them. And when we are using service books, we try not to start until everyone has found the right page! Worship of God gives us space to be close to God and, perhaps to find a moment to catch up with ourselves. We notice how we are feeling and I encourage you to then turn those feelings towards God in your prayers. Come as you are and let God love you.

In worship we don't just do our own thing. We belong to each other, and our offering is a shared response to God. So, our attitude towards each other also matters. If we believe God loves all of us, we can't ignore or disrespect one another.

After we have drawn close to God in worship and received his peace, forgiveness and comfort and maybe stayed for a cup of tea to get to know each other better, we leave our church building to serve God in the week to come. I hope very much that our shared worship gives us encouragement for the week ahead, food for the journey.

If you are reading this and you have lapsed from attending church, why not come back? We won't moan at you for having gone missing: we'll just be pleased to see you. And, if you've never been to church, why not give it a try? It won't hurt and you might like it: you could even bring a friend!

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

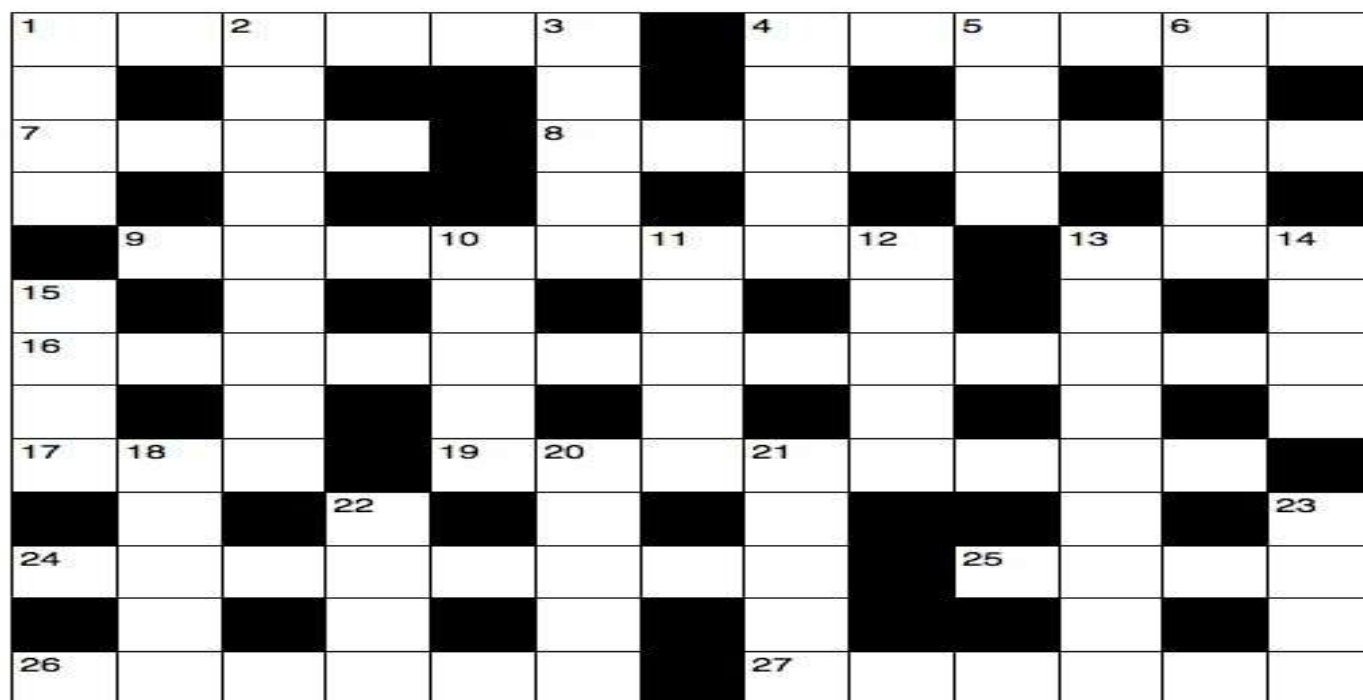
(Hebrews 13.15-16)

We live in troubling times, and many are finding God for the first time. They recognise that only God can give us his peace and hope in difficult days. May you find peace, healing and love in God,

With love,

Louise.x

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD – ANSWERS ON PAGE 27



ACROSS

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

DOWN

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

Denise Askew
40 Wakering Road
SHOEBURYNESSE
SS3 9SU

Blythswood Care
Highland Deephaven
Evanton, Ross-shire
Scotland, IV16 9XJ
Tel: 01349 830777
Website: www.blythswood.org

Dear Friends,

Who do you share your shoes with? Do you wear them one day and someone else wears them next?
Or do you take turns morning and afternoon?

We delivered your gift-filled boxes to one family in Kosovo and discovered the boys took turns at wearing their one pair of shoes. The one who didn't have shoes was barefoot. He was glad to find socks in his box. The toddler in the family had nothing from the waist down. New underpants in the shoebox were put to good use very quickly.

Another family had a foam mattress blocking the space where an outside door should be. It kept some cold out, but it didn't stop rats coming in. Dad was in prison and mum had no money for Christmas presents. Imagine how much your gifts meant to them!

The poverty of others is less obvious. Some young people were brought by their parents to a centre for people with disabilities to receive the boxes you had sent. It was so good to see them leave with smiles on their faces.

Thank you for all you have done to help us with our shoebox appeal. In eight countries across southeast Europe, people who are poor and disadvantaged in other ways were thankful to receive a box. We could have given away more. There are never enough but our partners know their communities and make sure your boxes go to the people most in need. They couldn't do it without your contribution.

The people who give out shoeboxes asked us to thank you. And we know that the children and adults who received a box all for themselves want us to thank you, too. You made them so happy!

Wishing you the very best in 2026.


Administration Team
Blythswood Care

LENT STUDY GROUPS

As is our normal practice, we will have study groups meeting during Lent. The Diocese has produced some materials which seem good to use. They come from a suggestion that we spend 100 days seeking God's guidance and provision in unsettling and changing times in the world, and in society.

There will be two groups each week with the same material being covered at each group:

Mondays 2-3.30pm in St Peter's beginning on Feb 23rd and concluding on March 30th

Tuesdays 8-9.30pm on Zoom, beginning on Feb 24th and concluding on March 31st

If you would like to attend, please let Louise know so we can make sure you have all the materials.

If you don't normally attend any fellowship or study groups, why not give this a try? We are not at all intimidating and we don't expect you to know lots of things about the Christian faith. The aim is to be encouraged in our faith and to be a supportive presence. And, hopefully, to learn some useful things on the way through!

New Beginnings, Healthier You

Every Thursday Evening 6pm -7.15pm at St Andrew's Church Hall,
Church Road, SS3 9EU

A friendly group helping you to a happier, healthier lifestyle,
nutrition and different food groups, gut health, mental health,
importance of being active and also wellness

Jackie Porter

07900 497083

newbeginningshealthieryou@gmail.com

DanceFit

EXERCISE TO LATIN BEATS

SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES & FITNESS LEVELS, FUN & FRIENDLY CLASSES

MONDAYS 6PM-7PM & WEDNESDAYS 10AM-11AM

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL, CHURCH ROAD, SS3 9EU

CONTACT WENDY TRAXLER TEL: 07596 009398

FACEBOOK: FITNESS WITH TRAX

EMAIL: WENDY.TRAXLER@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

£7.00 PER CLASS



Martin Motor Engineers Ltd



MOTOR INDUSTRY
CODE OF PRACTICE
Service and Repair



**16 Terminal Close, Shoeburyness
Tel: 01702 297400 / 296133**

GRADUATION

Thank you for your kind congratulations following my graduation on January 8th.

I've completed a 3-year part-time MA in theology based at St Augustine's College of Theology in West Malling (Kent). The degree was conferred by Durham University and so I had to go to Durham Cathedral for the ceremony.

I have loved my studies, and it was a very happy occasion. No mortar boards, but here's a picture of me in my academic robes on very cold day! The building above my head is Durham Cathedral.

Louise.



BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

As of Jan 17th, the work in St Andrew's is progressing well with the builders working hard in very chilly conditions.

The font will be moved next week from its current position in the tower, to the front of the church. A new concrete base has been laid to bear its weight. Towards the end of the work, the new, suspended floor will be laid around it. Meanwhile, the encapsulated asbestos is being removed: this had been positioned under the pews to prevent damage from the heating elements. The new heating will be a combination of radiant heaters in the chancel and tower, and under pew, directional heat.

The pews will all be sanded and treated to give them many more years of life.



F. P. Guiver & Sons Ltd

Independent Funeral Directors Est. 1900

Independent funeral directors offering a caring and personal service to reflect the needs of your family

Offices and Chapels of Rest at:



641 Southchurch Road,
Southend on Sea, SS1 2PN
Tel: 01702 467426



416 Rayleigh Road, Eastwood
Leigh on Sea, SS9 5PT
Tel: 01702 527258

52 Ashingdon Road
Rochford, SS4 1RD
Tel: 01702 419333

info@guiver.co.uk www.guiver.co.uk

For more information on our Bereavement Support Group,
please visit our website

FUNERAL PLANS FROM
Golden Charter
Smart Planning for Later Life



F. P. Guiver & Sons Ltd is an appointed representative of Golden Charter Limited trading as Golden Charter Funeral Plans which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN:965279).



Freephone: 0800 652 5758

14th February - Aspects of Romantic Love

God obviously approves of romance – after all, putting Adam and Eve alone together in the Garden of Eden was His idea.

The history of the Israelites began with three great romances: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Rachel. The on-going history of Israel was deeply affected by later romances: Esther and King Xerxes, David's love affair with Bathsheba, and Solomon's marriage to hundreds of foreign wives. There is even an entire book in the Old Testament devoted to the love of a man and woman: the Song of Solomon!

When we reach the New Testament, we find real love between Joseph and Mary (even when Joseph thought Mary had been faithless, he did not want to harm her). St Paul, though himself a bachelor, nevertheless spent a lot of time urging Christians to love and be kind and faithful and considerate to their spouses. He even wrote 1 Corinthians 13 – the great love chapter that is read at millions of weddings worldwide 2000 years later.

Down the centuries ever since, romantic love has been critical in shaping history (Anthony and Cleopatra), in shaping cultural ideals (King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table). Some of our favourite stories are built on romance. (Puccini's *Tosca*, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*.)

People make amazing sacrifices for love. They defy their family, forsake their culture, and turn their back on wealth and position, just to be with their loved one. (King Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson.)

People give their loved ones amazing gifts. The most extravagant is probably the gift of the Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal in India for his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

Today, romance is still alive and well in Britain – last year we sent about 25 million Valentines to each other.

And what of the future? Well, just as the Bible begins with a love story, so it ends with one. And *you are involved*! For actually the greatest Love Story of all time is that between God and his people.

Christ is described in Revelation as our heavenly Bridegroom, and the Church is His beloved Bride. He has given us the most expensive present of all – Himself. And, just as in all the best romances, the story will end with the bride and groom getting together at last, so at the End of Time, Christ will return for His Bride.

Southend Foodbank Update for February 2026

The foodbank provides emergency food & practical support to people in their hardest moments. How can *WE* help?

1. Thank you to everyone who places items in the Foodbank collection boxes at both St Andrew's and St Peter's. In addition, you can make food donations at Shoeburyness & Thorpe Bay Baptist Church in Thorpedene Gardens every Thursday 12.30pm - 2.30pm. There is also a box for food donations just past the tills as ASDA. Please don't give perishable goods, such as fresh fruit and veg.
2. Each week the team publishes a list of the most urgent needs - although some items often appear week after week. Here's a list of what the Foodbank is currently running low on:
 - Tinned sweetcorn
 - Tinned tomatoes
 - Instant mashed potato
 - Pasta sauce
 - Tinned mince and onions
3. For anyone with a smartphone, there is an app called "Bank the Food". Once downloaded, add Southend Foodbank where prompted and they will update you weekly on the latest urgent needs (but there is no pressure at all to give).
4. Sadly, the Foodbank is having to close four of its church-based Distribution Centres from the end of January 2026 in order to live within available funds. However, the need for the Foodbank's work is as heavy as ever. So, let's keep supporting it with our donations. Christians from Shoebury churches (including ours!) generously serve as Foodbank volunteers. Let's keep all those involved in our prayers.



Trading Since 1945



GP MASON
ELECTRICAL

01702 467353

Independent Family Funeral Directors
Serving the communities of Shoebury since 1867

S. Stibbards & Sons

A 5th Generation Family Business Dedicated to Providing the Highest Standards
of care and service based on a wealth of experience

GOLDEN CHARTER & HELP THE AGED PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS AVAILABLE



The most *thoughtful* decision you could make



Call in for a coffee and an informal chat at:

74 Ness Road, Shoeburyness
(01702) 293400



24 Hour Personal & Caring Attention
Diploma in Bereavement
Floral Tributes Arranged

Private Office & Chapel of Rest
Horse Drawn Carriages
Qualified & Licensed Staff

Arrangements can always be made in the comfort of your own home if required
www.stibbards.co.uk

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made – God in the Sciences

Every person who ever lived was once a sperm and an egg. Those two cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. Each of us emerged from this same embryonic development process, which is highly complex and organised, but variable enough to turn out a unique individual every time.

If you like order – such as neat piles of stationery, or tidy colour-coded files – you will enjoy this story. One of the most important stages of an embryo's development is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity. Each part is told what shape to take, and which limbs or internal organs to grow: legs or arms, lungs or kidneys, and so on.

The most beautiful part of this body-patterning process is that it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a neat way. The DNA instructions for the procedure, known as genes, are organised in the order in which they are needed during development *which is also* the order in which they appear on the body. No other sets of genes are known to be arranged in such a tidy pattern.

So, as the embryo develops, the tissues near the head end activate the first sets of genes. Those active genes then make all the proteins needed for that part of the body to grow and develop in the right way. The tissues just below the head then switch on the second set of genes, and so on. A wave of activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. The Psalmist did not understand how this process happened, but he knew that it was a marvellous thing. *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”*

The story of the tidy genes brings out the hidden beauty in the very early stages of embryonic development. The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, *“I am fearfully and wonderfully made”!*

GIVING

We are very grateful to all who give financially to the work of our parish. Although we don't physically take the collection plate around during services, it is fantastic that so many of you are so generous week by week in placing money in the collection plate. Giving is very much part of the worship we offer to God and, of course, helps to pay for the upkeep of the buildings, contributes towards my salary and means we can maintain the mission of the church here in Shoebury.

There are a couple of changes I wanted to tell you about which may affect how, and how much, you choose to give.

Firstly, we bank with Barclays and they are changing how we pay cash into our account. Until now, we have counted the money, bagged it up and left it at the counter. We will no longer be able to do this. Now we will have to wait whilst the money is counted. Should our cash payments exceed a certain amount over the year, we will be charged fees.

So, this is a moment to invite you to think about giving by Standing Order. You could do this weekly, monthly or quarterly. We are particularly appreciative of this form of regular giving, and especially if you are unable to attend church regularly.

The church banking details are as follows:

Sort code **20-79-73**

Account number **90498092**

Account name: **The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of South Shoebury**

Your bank should be able to help you to set this up.

If you are a taxpayer, please **don't** give this way as we are unable to reclaim the tax which the government gives us via Gift Aid! Please consider giving via the **Parish Giving Scheme**. This is an excellent scheme which reclaims tax for us every month and makes our admin much simpler. This QR code will take you to their website, or use the website information below



In the past couple of years, a number of our regular givers have passed away, and this has, naturally, had an impact on our income so, please give this some thought.

And, of course, if you still wish to give using cash, we will continue to be hugely grateful!

Secondly, I wanted to let you know that we are now incurring some additional costs as we have some paid help.

This is a great blessing but again, it does have an impact on our church finances.

In the autumn we took on **Mark Gadsden** for a few hours each week to help with the children's work. He is doing a great job. This is a cost we gladly share across the churches, but I wonder if our parents whose children attend the after-school groups, might consider making a regular contribution to the church? We don't charge subs as we want all our activities to be free at the point of delivery but, please give it some thought.

Also, since Patrick has stepped down as our Treasurer and no one has been able to take this task on, we have now agreed that another Mark, **Mark Cardnell**, will help us with our accounts. This is his occupation so we will need to pay his monthly fee.

Please be assured that our church finances are sound and we are thankful that God has provided for us so faithfully over so many years. The various building works are being funded from legacy money and we believe this is a great investment for the years to come.

Thank you, once again, for the financial support you give to God's work here. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you,

Louise.

FAMILY BUSINESS
ESTABLISHED
OVER 60 YEARS

AV & BV
ANDREWS
of Shoeburyness

Jewellery Repair Centre



We offer a fast and efficient service.
All work is undertaken by experienced craftsmen
at realistic prices.
Items can be remodelled and stones reset.
Estimates free of charge.
All aspects of repair undertaken;
chain repairs, re-sizing, claws re-tipping, and stones re-set.

The majority of our work is carried out in-house.

Over 1,000 wedding ring styles available

Certificated diamonds supplied.

We are happy to set customer's stones



**WE PURCHASE UNWANTED
OR BROKEN GOLD
FAIR PRICES PAID**

A.V. & B.V. ANDREWS LTD., 89 WEST ROAD, SHOEBURYNESSE, ESSEX SS3 9DT

Tel: 01702 292472 Fax: 01702 299392

enquiries@andrewsltd.co.uk

www.andrewsltd.co.uk

All items are fully insured whilst within
our care and Insurance work is undertaken

WE HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER LOCAL BUSINESS WITH A SIMILAR TRADING NAME

Visiting Foot Health Practitioner

Marie Sanders MCFHP MAFHP

Services Include: Toenail Cutting, Ingrown
Toenail Treatment, Corns & Callus Treatments,
Hard Skin Removal, General Foot Care



**07887 727378
01702 207739**

PAVILLION GARDEN SERVICES

For All Your Garden Requirements

- Garden Tidy Ups
- Regular Garden Maintenance
- Grass Cutting & Weeding
 - Lawns Laid
- Patios, Drives & Paths Constructed
- Fencing Supplied & Erected
- Fence Staining or Painting
- Also Patios & Driveways Power Cleaned

**FREE NO OBLIGATION
ESTIMATES**

Please Ring on

07506 294 842

185 Victoria Road, Southend-on-Sea,
SS1 2TD

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our thanks to the Southend Boys and Girls Choirs and their directors Roger Humphreys and Rosemary Pennington for a lovely evening in December. The church was full, not least with approximately 40 performers, including a harp! The singing was beautiful and joyful. We hope to welcome the choirs back later in the year. Approximately £460 was raised for church funds. Thank you also to those who helped with refreshments.

18th February – Ash Wednesday, a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’ (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

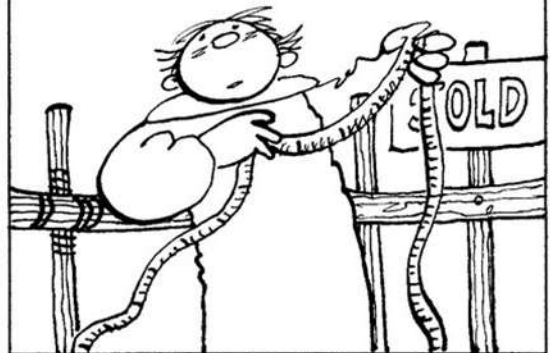


OH!
NO!!

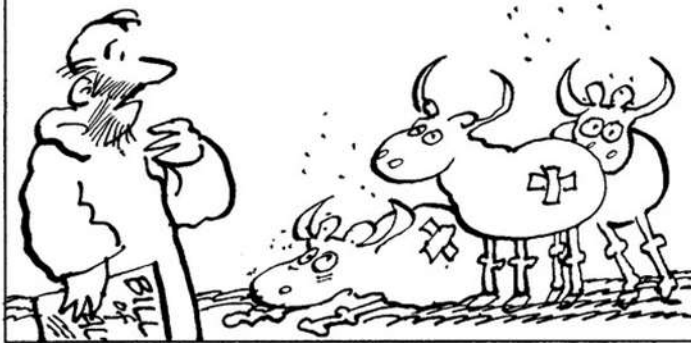


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

PARISH PEOPLE

Rector - Revd Canon Louise Williams
The Rectory, 42 Church Road, Shoeburyness 292778

Lay Minister Emeritus
Andy Clipsham, 17 High Street, Shoeburyness

Licensed Lay Minister
Sandra Baines, 112 Waking Avenue, Shoeburyness 294043

Church Warden
Denise Askew, 40 Waking Road, Shoeburyness 293508

PCC Secretary
Geoff Price, 11 Pentland Avenue, Shoeburyness 296249

PCC Treasurer
Patrick Dromgoole

Child Protection and Safeguarding Officer
Sandra Baines, 112 Waking Avenue, Shoeburyness 294043

Electoral Roll Officer Libby Barnes
southshoeburyparish@outlook.com

Magazine Editor Steve Thomas 07917-162747

Magazine Distribution Geoff Price 296249

Tea, Toast & Toddlers Mary Fane 296393

Tuesdays @ Two Geoff Price 296249

CHARITY NUMBER – 1198044

For bank transfers:

'The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of South Shoebury'

Sort code: 20-79-73

Account number: 90498092

Cheques are payable to 'South Shoebury PCC'

The Parish Giving Scheme is our preferred way of making tax efficient donations. <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>

CHURCH HALLS

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL Church Road <i>Sue Kelly,</i> <i>16 Pentland Avenue</i> <i>01702 296199</i>	ST PETER'S CHURCH HALL Hinguar Street Denise Askew, 40 Waking Road 01702 293508
Monday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.30 – 10.30am – Active Life – Jennie 01702 567327 • 4.45-6.15pm – 5678 Dance Performing Arts – Charlotte - 07880 605212 • 6.45-8pm – Dance Fit- Wendy - 07596 009398 	Monday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3pm Vocal Coaching • 5.30 & 6.30pm – Slimming World • 8-9.30pm Singing for the Soul - A new community choir (once a month at St Andrews)- Sandra- 01702 294043
Tuesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-10.45am – 5678 Dance Performing Arts – Charlotte - 07880 605212 • 2-4pm – Tuesdays at Two • 3.30-4.30pm – Church Fun Club • 6pm-7.45 – 5678 Dance Performing Arts – Charlotte - 07880 605212 	Tuesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9-11am Tea, Toast and Toddlers • 5-6pm – Rainbows
Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-11am – Dance Fit - Wendy - 07596 009398 • 11am – After Church Coffee • 4.30-7.30pm – Brownies & Rainbows – Jenny- 01702 295870 • 7.45- 9pm Guides – 07725 405400 	Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-11.30am – Art Class for beginners and improvers – Sandra – 07757 593499 • 4-5pm – Squirrels • 7-10pm – The Fifty Choir
Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-6pm – Tai Chi – Michael – 07788 848668 • 6-7.15pm – New Beginnings- Jackie 07900 497083 <p>Newbeginningshealthieryou@gmail.com</p>	Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am- 12 noon Cake Club • 5-6pm - Beavers (boys & girls) • 6-8pm - Cubs (boys & girls)
Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am-12.30pm Baby Sensory Louise 07711 710495 • 1.30-3.30pm – Table Tennis • 4.45 – 7.45pm 5678 Dance Performing Arts – Charlotte - 07880 605212 	Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9-11am – Slimming World • 7-9pm Shoebury Society (3rd in the month)
Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am-12.15pm 5678 Dance Performing Arts – Charlotte - 07880 605212 	Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.30-10.30 Kangoo Jumps Exercise



THE SHOEBURY SOCIETY

PROMOTING THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF
SHOEBURYNESS AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

*REGULAR MEETINGS AND VISITS *LOW COST MEMBERSHIP *HISTORICAL
INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOCAL AREA *SUPPORTING THE SHOEBURYNESS HERITAGE CENTRE
WHY NOT JOIN?

For further details contact the secretary
on 01702-586622



Hire includes use of tables,
chairs, kitchen facilities,
outdoor space at St Peter's,
toilet facilities and heating

Hire our Church Halls

Why not hire one of our church halls for your next
family celebration?

Children's Party
Wedding Anniversary

Why not hire one of our church halls for your local club?

Keep Fit
Collectors
Book Club

Reasonable Hourly Rates

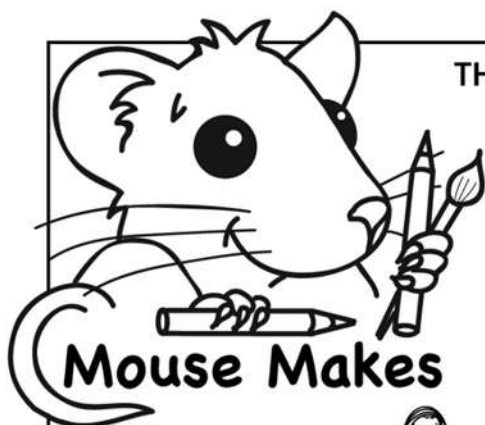
St Peter's Contact Denise ~ 293508

St Andrew's Contact Sue ~ 296199

CROSSWORD ANSWERS FROM PAGE 10

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg.
16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26,
Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10,
Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod
in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.



Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible

Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

Put God **first**

Worship **only** Him.

1

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

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH

JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, **trust**

Him do not test Him.

