



Stockport Sunday School

August 2020 Newsletter 6



Here we are in August, the height of summer, when normally the holiday season would be in full swing. Sadly, this year, for many of us the coronavirus has severely disrupted our plans. This is particularly true in regard to travel arrangements. There is much uncertainty about how we can get to our chosen destination, never mind what will be the constraints on what we can do when we get there. It's an anxious time for many.

It brought to mind the old proverb - **'It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.'** I have always been curious as to what this saying is meant to signify. I must confess that after a long journey I am always happy to have arrived safely. Some years ago, on our way to Cornwall, we got trapped by the heavy floods in the Midlands and West of England and after spending two days in a hotel in Stratford on Avon (address 'Water's Edge'!) we had to abandon our holiday. I can't say this proverb would have been much consolation at the time. In that case, arriving home safely was certainly better than the travelling.

The words of the proverb are actually a quotation from a collection of essays by Robert Louis Stevenson. As is often the case with well known sayings, there is a second part to the proverb which is often omitted; - in this case **'and the true success is to labour.'**

Stevenson is, in fact, writing about labouring in the quest for 'Happiness' in life rather than the physical act of travelling. He is suggesting that true happiness is more likely to be found in the process of seeking happiness, not in any final state of happiness itself. I think it fair to say that when an important goal is achieved, sometimes life can seem flat afterwards. It is probably because our innate curiosity and desire for new attractions drives us on to find another goal to pursue at the next stage of our life. But if we are not careful, this pursuit of the new will detract from the pleasure and contentment of what we already have.

It is an interesting proposition, and perhaps has some relevance to our current experience of life in a time of serious pandemic. Day to day life has been changed for everyone in recent months, and it will be some time before we get back to something close to normality. The impact of the disease on individuals and society as a whole has been drastic, both in terms of the health of the population and also the impact on the economy and people's livelihoods. Many families are facing a very uncertain future and as a nation we need to play our part in supporting those who are most badly affected. It will be a challenge.

However, on the positive side, the experience of recent months has demonstrated to us some of the aspects of life which are really valuable.

For example, socially it has brought neighbours and communities a bit closer together, demonstrating our interdependence in ways that have often been overlooked. Being confined to our homes has been particularly difficult for some, but neighbours offering practical help, - such as volunteering to do shopping; telephone calls from friends and acquaintances; doorstep chats (at a safe distance), have been welcome sources of comfort for many who otherwise would feel isolated and alone. It has demonstrated that there is still much goodwill and caring in our country particularly when times are hard.

And, perhaps a bit unexpectedly, not being free to pursue our regular activities outside the house and home has freed up time for us to appreciate the blessings and comforts we enjoy



with our families. It's a reminder that one of the best gifts we can give to each other is time. In days to come, we may be able to look back on our experiences, and feel they have helped us to re-assess our priorities and increase our general happiness.

On a different level, as Christians, we believe our life is a journey to a final destination, a home of true happiness with God our Father. We cannot know what that will be like.

But the 'labour' we put in on the way, following Jesus' teaching, will bring us blessings for us to enjoy, to be encouraged by, and for us to share with each other. And while these times of enjoyment will not surpass our ultimate homecoming with God, they will be times of real happiness as suggested by Stevenson's essay. So let us travel hopefully and enjoy the fruits of our labour for Christ'.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO EVA FLINT WHO WILL CELEBRATE HER 100TH BIRTHDAY ON AUGUST 1ST.

We also wish Happy Birthday to the following people who also have birthdays this month.

Norman Sellers on 14th August
Joyce Darvill on 18th August
Ken Dean on 29th August
and
Cath Brown on 2nd September



Lancashire Hill Sunday School

GOLDEN WEDDING

Congratulations to Pat and Colin Mellor on their special day on 8 August.





ALISON JOHNSON (NEE HENSHAW)

We were sorry to hear of the death of Alison Johnson in Australia after a long illness. Like her mother, Alice Henshaw, her children and her brother, John, Alison attended SSS from an early age until she and her husband, Chris and their children, Catherine and David, emigrated to Australia.

Whilst Alice was alive, Alison visited England several times and came to see us at SSS. More recently her daughter, Catherine, came to school with her Auntie Gwen, when she came over to England with her husband, daughter and son.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family both here and in Australia.

WELL DONE CATH

Cath Brown has been keeping busy over lockdown. As well as doing some on line courses, she has also been making face masks, 450 to date. She has been putting these in a box on her garden wall and inviting anyone to take one. All have been taken.

I'm sure all your hard work and thoughtfulness has been appreciated by everyone in the area who has received a mask.



Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh how beautiful' and sitting in the shade.
Rudyard Kipling



When considering your future: give God what's right - not what's left.
Anon



If you want your neighbour to know what Christ will do for him, let the neighbour see what Christ has done for you.
Anon



It is easier for the generous to forgive, than for the offender to ask forgiveness.
Thomson



ZOOM SERVICES



ZOOM SERVICE, JULY 5TH 2020

Judith Curry led this service and her theme was 'journeying'. Jesus went on many journeys visiting many villages and towns mainly on foot. Beryl Barnett read Luke 2 verses 41-45, Jesus Passover visit to Jerusalem aged 12 when he remained in the temple talking with the teachers when He should have been returning to Nazareth with the rest of His party.

Instead of giving the talk herself, Judith arranged to show a video of a talk given by Chris Goswami, the Associate Minister from Lymm Baptist Church.

He told the true story of the Welsh sculptor David Nash who in 1978 carved a huge boulder from a fallen oak tree. It weighed half a ton so instead of trying to move it by road, David rolled it into the river to let it float along. Sometimes it moved along rapidly, sometimes more slowly where the river was more shallow. At one point, it rolled down a waterfall and got stuck in rocks at the bottom. It stayed there for a year until the river flooded as snow melted and the boulder moved on a short distance before becoming stuck again. Twelve years later the boulder was still floating in the river. In 1994 it became stuck under a bridge and for the first time, David, helped it on its journey. He employed men with a crane to lift the boulder over the bridge and place it back in the river on the other side where it landed on pebbles in shallow water, where it remained until heavy rains caused the water level to rise refloating the boulder.

At this point David realised that he wasn't going to get his boulder back as a work of art, it was the journey itself that was the work of art. In about 2000 the boulder reached the estuary of the river and became subject to tidal forces.

In 2003, the boulder disappeared and although people searched they couldn't find it. In 2008, it reappeared for a short time and then was gone again.

In 2013, David got a phone call from a friend telling him that the boulder was resting on a beach in a quiet part of the river. After heavy rain in 2015 the boulder disappeared again and has not been seen since.

Is it stuck near a bank covered in mud or halfway across the Irish Sea on its way to Ireland or even to America?

The journey of the boulder lasted for forty years and David followed it photographing it at points along the way.

David says, "It is where it is, it hasn't vanished, we just can't still see it."

We are all making a journey through life. Sometimes we move quickly and don't notice the time like the boulder in the fast moving river. Sometimes we get stuck or move slowly we reminisce on how times used to be. Sometimes, like in the present pandemic, a period of waiting things are tough. When we look back on these times we can ask ourselves, "Did we learn anything at this time?" God can speak to us during these times, what can we learn during these periods?

- an appreciation of the small things that we previously took for granted

- an understanding of living with uncertainty, as many people in the world do at all times in their lives

- a call to more faithful living

Let us all try to listen to the voice of God in these uncertain times.

Thank you, Judith, for leading this service and introducing us to this interesting sermon from Chris Goswani.



ZOOM SERVICE, JULY 19TH 2020

The theme of Ken Dean's zoom service on 19th July was 'Time and Times'.

Norman led the prayers and Jayne read the lesson, Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verses 1-8.

Ken spoke about his own family saying many of us would recall similar things in our own families. Ken is not happy with using technology and was nervous doing a zoom service. When he mentioned this to Stuart, he said, "It will be alright, just do it", reminding Ken of when he had said similar things to Stuart when he was a young boy trying new things. Now the boot was on the other foot.

When we were young our lives were centred around Sunday School, its teaching affected our lives. Our parents and Sunday School prepared us for our future lives.

We are told that after lockdown life will get back to some kind of normal. Many people have lost loved ones during the pandemic, for them life will not be the same. We must all do our best to help those who are struggling now and will be after lockdown.

Ken doesn't want worship in churches to be the same after the pandemic.

Christians working together can do a lot. We now have the opportunity to plan for this time of change and look forward to a better normal than before the lockdown.

FUTURE ZOOM SERVICES

The next dates for our Zoom services are:-

Sunday 2nd August - Stuart Dean

Sunday 30th August - Walter Stead

Due to holidays at this time of year, it may be necessary to change dates, we will notify those who attend the services if this happens.





SHOE BOXES

Beryl is hoping that some members will still be able to make up shoe boxes again this year. It will not be as easy as some shops are not yet open and many of us are not going out shopping yet.

In the past, we have invited members of St Georges, Davenport Methodist and St Marys, to bring along their boxes to our Shoe Box Service and these have been collected from our School. This year Carol from Teams 4 U has offered to pick up boxes from individual churches. Boxes need to be in no later than November 1st. There will be NO Shoe Box Service this year.

We will give you more details of when and where to bring in your boxes in future newsletters when we know more how the covid openings are planned.

Last year the Home Boxes were very popular. These must not be any larger than a boot box. There was a shortage of teenage boy boxes.

Details of what can be put into boxes can be found on the Teams 4 U website.

T4U

BOWLING CLUB

Some members are playing on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, weather permitting.



KNIT 'N' NATTER

The ladies are missing the meetings and looking forward to the time when the School will be re-opened.





A MUSICAL AWAKENING

It was the end of my first term at my new school - Stockport High School For Girls. I was 11 years old - nervous, impressionable, with all kinds of beginnings inside me, waiting to be nurtured. Music was one of these beginnings and how well the nurturing was accomplished!

Amongst the many wonderful things that I learnt at Stockport High, and the numerous doors that were opened for me, was music - particularly singing, which seemed to explode into my life with a dazzling brightness!



Although we had a radio at home in the 1940's, (a home which I shared with Mum, Grandma, Grandad and an Auntie), my opportunities for listening to music had, until then, been limited to 'Sunday Half-Hour' and an old gramophone playing a scratchy version of the 'The Laughing Policeman' and 'Ramona'. Of course, I had the hymns at Heaviley Sunday School, many of which I can remember perfectly, and - VERY SPECIAL - the H.S.S. pantomimes, in which I had been taking part from the age of 5! However, my musical life changed dramatically, from the age of 11.

During the first rehearsal for Christmas, we were introduced to 'The Messiah' by Handel, and I experienced the thrill and wonder of 300 well-trained girls, singing 'And The Glory Of The Lord' and 'For Unto Us A Child Is Born', accompanied, brilliantly, by a very polished school orchestra, and conducted with vigour and enthusiasm, by Edna Jamieson, our Music Leader.

Later, when I became a member of the school choir, the Maia choir and H.S.S choir, there began a life-long appreciation of music.

For me, music is inexorably linked to my faith, and, looking back, the impact of the words of 'the Messiah' made a lasting impression on my young mind, which has stayed with me for all of my life. I shall always remain grateful to the enthusiasm and experience of my first music teacher, and also to my piano teacher, Elsie Swann, who needed unbounded patience and expertise to manage to get me through the basics to Grade IV! (I was certainly never a 'natural' at piano playing!!)



Each year now, as Christmas approaches, I know that my musical experiences will be endless - radio, television, concerts, services, and, of course, wonderful carol singing in church and out and about.

Another item from that first Carol Service, 66 years ago, was a haunting little song by David Thomson, I've never forgotten the tune or the words, and would like to share the words with you now.





*"There was a knight of Bethlehem
whose wealth was tears and sorrows,
His men-at-arms were little lambs,
His trumpeters were sparrows.
His castle was a wooden cross
whereon he hung so high,
His helmet was a crown of thorns,
whose crest did touch the sky.
There was a knight of Bethlehem
whose wealth was tears and sorrows.
His men-at-arms were little lambs,
His trumpeters were sparrows."*



Margaret Morris-Jones



Recipe

Chocolate fridge cake

Makes 16 squares

125g butter

400g good quality milk or plain chocolate, grated or chopped

2 dollops golden syrup

250g digestive biscuits, lightly crushed

135g pack of Maltesers

20cm square brownie or sandwich tin

Line the tin with baking parchment. Put the butter in a large pan and melt over a low heat. Add the chocolate and golden syrup and allow to melt for a couple of minutes, stirring. Take off the heat and stir in the digestive biscuits and Maltesers until evenly mixed.

Tip the mixture into the prepared tin and flatten the top down as smoothly as possible with the back of a spoon. Cover and place in the fridge for a couple of hours or until it hardens. When ready to serve, remove from the tin and cut up into 16 even-sized squares.

The following articles are taken from The Parish Pump.

6TH AUGUST THE TRANSFIGURATION - A GLIMPSE OF JESUS' FUTURE GLORY

The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36).

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking Him out. But on this day, He made time to take Peter, James and John, His closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi.

High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His friends. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

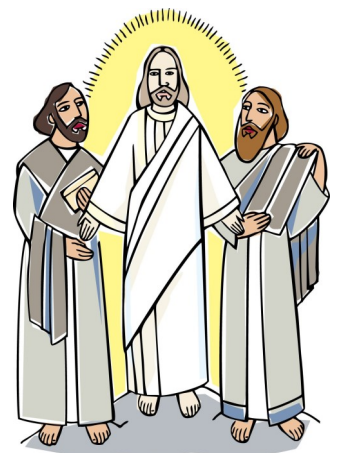
Peter was staggered, but, enthusiast that he was - immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved Son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our listening to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Why Moses and Elijah? Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Why on top of a mountain? In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by His coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 - 19 - invariably the reading for this day.

The Eastern Churches have long held the Transfiguration as a feast as important as Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension and Pentecost. But it took a long time for the West to observe the Transfiguration. The feast starts appearing from the 11th and 12th centuries, and the Prayer Book included it among the calendar dates, but there was no liturgical provision for it until the 19th century.



Jesus' Transfiguration



8TH AUGUST DOMINIC - THE SAINT WHO BELIEVED IN LEARNING

If you enjoy reading the Bible and in encouraging others to have faith in God, then Dominic is the patron saint for you. His passion for helping Christians to learn and proclaim their faith led him to found the Order of Preachers, or Black Friars, because of the black cape they wore over white habits. They are also known as the Dominicans.

Dominic was born in Castile in 1170, the youngest son of the warden of the town and nephew to the archpriest of Gumiel d'Izan. Becoming an Austin canon of Osma cathedral, Dominic spent seven years as a priest, devoted to prayer and penance. In 1201 he became sub-prior to his community.

In 1208 the Papal Legate was murdered. It sparked a crusade or 'holy war' against the Albigensian heretics. Dominic worked for reconciliation, refusing to join in the violence and massacres against them. Instead he used instruction and prayer to woo the heretics back, which led to him playing a leading role in founding Toulouse University. That became the foundation for his work in establishing the Friars Preachers at Toulouse in 1215, which occupied the last seven years of his life. (Three times he refused a bishopric, believing that this work was more important.)



Dominic's 'order' provided communities of sacred learning, with monks devoted to study, teaching and preaching as well as the usual prayer. Dominic believed monks should do more than just commune with God; they should proclaim God's love to others. Dominic was an excellent organiser, and soon his order spread rapidly all over Italy, Spain and France. It met an acute need in the medieval church, and in time the Black Friars became a pioneering missionary force in Asia and even (much later) the Americas.

Dominic travelled widely from 1216 until his death in 1220. His simple tomb was later embellished by Michelangelo, and his usual attributes in art are a lily and a black and white dog, which is a pun (Domini canis) on the name of Dominic. The dog holds a torch in its mouth as a herald of the truth.

30TH AUGUST JOHN BUNYAN - THE MAN WHO WROTE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

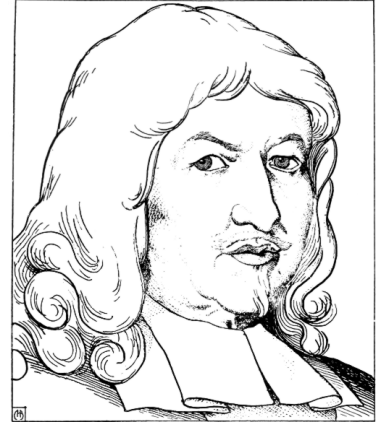
Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career.

His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the *Pilgrim's Progress* covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31 August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, *'My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder.'* ... *So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side...'*



SMILE LINES



Body parts

A doctor in our village surgery often plays a game with his younger patients to put them at ease, and to test their knowledge of body parts. And so it was that one day, while pointing to my young son's ear, the doctor asked him solemnly, "Is this your nose?"

Alarmed, my son glanced over to me and said softly: "Mum, I think we'd better find a new doctor!"

**

All in a name

I'm dyslexic, and recently attended a Zoom conference about the disorder with a friend. The speakers asked us to share a personal experience with the group. I told them stress aggravates my condition, in which I reverse words and letters when I'm tense. When I finished speaking, my friend blurted out, "Now I know why you named your daughter Hannah!"

**

What am I?

A teacher gave her young class a lesson on Zoom on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a short test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am strong and attractive. I pick up lots of things. What am I?" When the answers were sent in, the teacher was astonished to find that more than half her students had answered the question with the word: "Mother."

**

Multiply

Noah opened up the ark and let all the animals out, telling them to "Go forth and multiply!" He began to close the great doors of the ark when he noticed that there were two snakes still sitting in a dark corner. Concerned, he said to them: "Didn't you hear me? You can go now. Go forth and multiply."

"We can't," said the snakes sadly. "We're adders."

PUZZLES

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



Sudoku



Name of the Game

The grid below contains 21 words. Can you find 10 pairs taken from either column? Write your answers in the second grid. Which word won't fit with any of the others?

	Leigh
Bergman	Garbo
Rita	Ava
Ingrid	Day
Elizabeth	Grace
Bacall	Vivien
Crawford	Hayworth
Kelly	Lauren
Gardner	Garland
Greta	Taylor
Joan	Doris

Spare Word =

WHO AM I?

The last letter of one name is the first letter of the next name.

P			L	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote 13 New Testament letters • He wrote the third Gospel 				M
H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother of John (Luke 1:3) • Sarah's servant (Genesis 16:21) 			
		R		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph's mother (Genesis 29:35) • His wife turned to salt (Genesis 11:31) 				T
S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul's friend (2 Corinthians 8:27) • A brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55) 			
N				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth's mother-in-law. (Ruth 3:1) 				—

IT'S A PUZZLE!

God sent 9 plagues on Egypt...

What were they?

Change each letter to the one after it in the alphabet to find out.

AKNNC
EQNFR
FMZSR
EKHDR
CHRDZRD
OKZFTD
GZHK
KNBTRSR
CZQJMDRR



FIND THE MISSING HUSBANDS

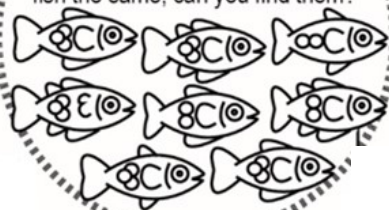
Match the wife to their husband

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| MARY | BOAZ |
| SARAH | JACOB |
| RUTH | ZECHARIAH |
| REBEKAH | JOSEPH |
| RACHEL | ABRAHAM |
| ELIZABETH | ISAAC |



FIND THE FISH

The Disciples have been fishing and have caught TWO fish the same, can you find them?





CODEWORD

21	14	20	1	13	22			10	3	8	8	22	20	10	
	9		14		3		13			14		26		12	
18	6	23	19	14	25	20	4		1	14	3	24	22	20	
	5		5		18		10			22		14		26	
7	14	15	13	20	12	12	20			17	14	7	13	4	23
	19		22		10		20			25		19		3	
	14		26	7	18	3	4	25	22	6		20		22	
14	4	7	20		3				14		26	19	12	6	
2		18		13	16	19	3	10	3	4	25		19		
20		14		4			5		4		4		3		
19	26	3	10	3	4			16	20	7	12	14	19	26	22
10		7		7				3		22		10		4	
12	19	20	5	14	19			10	18	14	19	12	26	25	20
20		10		19				18		12		3		22	
16	14	12	20	4	7	6			18	14	7	11	20	6	

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
											T	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				H								

Codewords are crosswords with no clues! Instead, every letter of the alphabet has been replaced by a number, the same number representing the same letter throughout the puzzle.

All you have to do is decide which letter is represented by which number!

To start you off, the codes for two letters can be found in the grid above.

When these letters have been entered throughout the puzzle, you should have enough information to start guessing words and discovering other letters.





WORDSEARCH

Can you find in this grid the words shown in **BOLD CAPITALS** in the Bible passage below? The words can be found in any direction.

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



THE TRANSFIGURATION

August is a quiet month as far as the Church calendar is concerned, except that during the 11th century, some church fathers slipped in an important day - the **TRANSFIGURATION** of **JESUS**, when His disciples were given just a glimpse of His future **GLORY** (Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9).

Jesus took Peter, **JAMES** and **JOHN**, his closest disciples, up a high **MOUNTAIN**. This is often identified as either Mount **TABOR** (there is a great church up there today), or one of the three spurs of Mount **HERMON**, which overlook **CAESAREA PHILIPPI**. **HIGH** up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His disciples. His **FACE** began to **SHINE** as the sun, His garments became **WHITE** and **DAZZLING**. **ELIJAH** and **MOSES**, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright **CLOUD** overshadowed the disciples, and a divine Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved son, whom the disciples should 'hear'. God's **DWELLING** with **MANKIND** depends upon our *listening* to Jesus.

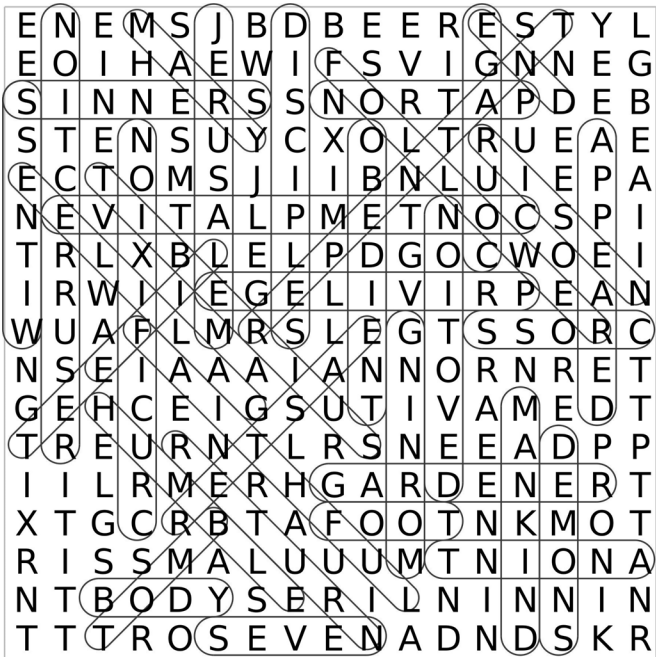
Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? *Why Moses and Elijah?* Well, these two men represent the **LAW** and the **PROPHETS** of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. **PETER** mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 - 19 - invariably the reading for this day.





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