



# Stockport Sunday School



May 2020 Newsletter 3

This year, for only the second time since its inception, the early May Bank Holiday has been changed from the first Monday, May 4th, to Friday, May 8th. This is to enable the country to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe, known as VE Day.

Some of you, reading this newsletter, will have memories of the very first celebration in 1945, and perhaps, like me, you will have photographs of the celebrations. We have a large print photograph of the street party gathering on Wellington Grove, Cale Green, prompting memories of neighbours and friends from those days. There are about 150 people in the photo, the majority children, but only 6 men. Perhaps not surprising in the circumstances, but a sobering reminder of family separation in wartime.

Of course, the conflict was not over while the war continued against Japan until August 14th 1945. As Winston Churchill warned at the time - 'we can allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing, while Japan remains unsubdued.'

Even after VJ day arrived, the nation had to face the cost of the conflict, with rationing of food and clothing continuing for some years.

However, after the experience of war, there was still a feeling that we were all in it together; a sense of interdependence born of shared experience. And there would be further occasions for celebration, not least the establishment of the National Health Service, an enormous step forward in terms of social care in our country. Where would we be now without it?

It is said that effects of the current Coronavirus epidemic are expected to be on a par with the post-war situation. Sadly, there may be one significant difference. In recent times, there is a feeling that, as a nation, we have lost the sense of community, the concept of the 'common good'.

We have seen it in the need for foodbanks, understaffing of social services including the NHS, housing problems and homelessness. The epidemic has demonstrated the potential fragility of life, and also the economic and social order.

On the positive side, it has been encouraging to see how so many people have volunteered to help those who have needed assistance in various ways, (with 100 year old Captain Tom as a particular example). In doing so, they have demonstrated the better aspects of human nature in our society.

It will be a severe challenge for government and those in authority to steer us through the difficult times that lie ahead. Equally, we as individuals will have to play our part. We can find a way through, as our predecessors did after VE and VJ days. But as we do, we must be sure to address the problems of the needy in our land, our town, our community. We should never forget that Jesus, our Saviour, Guide and Friend, spent much of His time on earth ministering to the poor, the sick, the dispossessed, the persecuted.

As it is written in St Matthew's Gospel, ch:25 v:40,

'As much as you did it for one of my brothers, you did it for me.'

Let us, as His followers, be up for the challenge.



### ZOOM SERVICE, SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

The second virtual service was held on Sunday April 26th. We were pleased to see members from both the Triangle and Compass Point joining us along with some husbands and wives.

Judith Higgins spoke of the similarity between the lockdown due to Covid 19 and the events in Oberammergau in 1633 and the Derbyshire village of Eyam in 1665 when both were threatened by bubonic plague.

Stuart read the lesson Luke 4 verses 31-35 and Luke 5 verses 12-14 and Walter led the prayers. The service ended with the closing prayer (below) which had been written by Norman and Joyce Sellers.

Our thanks once again to Stuart for providing the recordings of the hymns and helping us all to connect up to Zoom.

### NORMAN AND JOYCE SELLERS' SERVICE PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

Bless all who serve us, all who have given their lives, and all who are putting their own lives at risk to beat this coronavirus to keep us safe.

Bless and guide all those who are sharing your love in kindness to others and help us to be grateful.

We thank you for those who have dedicated their lives and all those who wait upon the public to help meet their daily needs.

May all those humble souls who in these days of stress and strain, preach a sermon without words.

## Lancashire Hill Sunday School

### ZOOM SERVICE

Thanks to everyone who joined the last Virtual Service on Zoom - it was good to see people on screen as well as hear their voices. See you all next time.



## NEXT ZOOM SERVICE

Our next Zoom service will be on Sunday 10th May and will be organised by Stuart Dean. We look forward to seeing everyone again at this service and if anyone else would like to join us please let us know your email address to pass on to Stuart.

Beryl Manley has suggested people may want to wear or have something red, white and blue to wave at the service with it being the Sunday nearest VE Day.



Thank you to everyone who has sent in their memories and provided other information on VE Day.

I remember my first VE Day party it was held in West Street just off Wood Street opposite Hollywood Park there were trestle tables out nearly the length of the street. All the mums had made party food, we all had a great afternoon and I remember coming home the week before from school and everyone had put their Union Jack flags out we had one with a small bag of sand to weight the flag ...

Beryl Manley



Christine Moore (née Jackson) remembers the day when their neighbours told them to get down to Stockport Town Hall quickly. Her father was at work but Christine and her mother, Mary Jackson, went down to the Town Hall (she thinks they went by tram!) There was already a large crowd there and they only managed to get to the edge of the Infirmary wall.

Someone shouted, "here's the mayor", and the crowd surged forward towards the Town Hall steps carrying Christine and her mother with them. Mary's feet didn't touch the ground.

After the mayor announced that the war in Europe was over the crowd dispersed.

Christine Moore

On VE Day, I remember hearing banging outside the house and when I looked out of the window, my father was hammering a flagpole into the lawn at the front of the house and putting up a Union Jack.

I was five and was in the reception class at Banks Lane Infant School. I was very proud when I went home one day with a certificate. My teacher explained that one had been sent to every school child in the country and it was a letter from King George VI (pictured later in the newsletter). Does anyone else remember receiving one and have you still got your copy?

Judith Higgins





I was born in 1937, so at the start of WW2 I was two years old and my sister Shirley was four, of course when the war was over I was eight.

Although only a child, my memories are very clear, anyone who was a child during the war years will have many memories and tales to tell. My first home was on Derwen Road, people said we lived in Siberia because all the road signs were named after countries in Siberia.

It was late evening when an ARP warden called to say we had to evacuate, our house was next to the railway sidings attached to Stockport Station and a bomb had dropped and as yet hadn't exploded.

My dad never went into the Anderson shelter (sleep was more important), but this time he got me out of bed and mum had Shirley. I was being awkward and said I wasn't going anywhere until I had had my breakfast! Dad just said to mum we were off.

My mum had dressed me but poor Shirley hadn't got any shoes or socks on. We had to cross the reservoirs and I can remember splashing in the water which later I learned was shrapnel.

An ARP warden was situated on Duchy Street and he was telling dad which direction to take.

We finished up at the Alexandra Cinema (now Home Bargains). All of our neighbours were there and we were told we had to remain there until we got the 'All Clear'.

Every morning dad left mum, Shirley and I, as he had to open his butcher's shop.

After two days, dad told mum he had had enough and as our granny Reid lived on Edgeley Road we were going there. I can remember our first meal, it was meat and potato pie which was very welcome after living on 'iron rations'.

At last salvation, we could go home, after living with grandma who was a Scottish Presbyterian and very strict. It was wonderful to go home.

The outcome of this is the bomb dropped but went too deep into the ground to explode - it left a huge crater which became our playground. When I go into Home Bargain's and I tell them I slept there with a lot of others, they look amazed.

I keep meaning to go into the 'Heritage Centre' to see if there is any mention of what was certainly something very memorable.

Looking back over those years, in one way they were happy all shops were open and as a lot of men were at war, mother's came together and shared whatever they had.

This virus that seems to have taken over the world's health, is very hard to come to terms with, I had a decision to make, I either stay at home in lock down or go out and put mine and other people's lives at risk - it was a no brainer. I just hope with our dear Lord watching over us we will all come out of this to continue our worship at SSS - I am sure we will all be a lot stronger for this awful experience we have all come through.

God Bless to you all and keep safe.



Anne Mather



I never thought much about the history of my family until I joined the U3A Family History Group which meets at SSS with Sheila Fleming as the leader. This was an eye opener and I realised how little I knew particularly about my mum, Vera Knott (née Parker). She died when I was 30 in 1971 and I do not think I had ever asked her anything about her background, just gathered bits of information from conversations when we visited maternal relatives.

One fact I definitely knew is that she went to Heaviley Sunday School as did her older sister, Elsie, and her mother, Ada.

Vera and Elsie were both pianists and piano teachers and my mum was also a singing teacher.

Then Judith Higgins suggested I look in the red bound copies of the SSS Magazines which were a very interesting source of information.

I have not found a mention of my mum on a Cradle Roll but assume she started when quite young. I have found her mentioned for prizes for attendance and seventeen mentions for her playing for or singing at services. I found when she passed her piano and singing examinations and received her Diploma for teaching piano and singing. I learned she was the Vice Captain of Florence Nightingale House and also played hockey at HSS. She acted in the Moonbeams Concert Party and the Christmas entertainment. She took the leads in the Shakespeare plays which were performed regularly. What an active time she had and I am sure it was the same in the Main School and all the branches.

What this made me realise is how important the magazine was and is now and how I appreciate the hard work that Judith and Kirsty do to produce one each month, and, at the moment, an excellent colourful newsletter. Thank you both very much, Judith and Kirsty - long may you continue to produce one.

Judith Curry



For future newsletters maybe you would like to write a piece letting us know how you are getting on with staying at home or what you are looking forward to doing once lockdown is over, maybe its some of your memories of your time at Stockport Sunday School, your religious journey or some other aspect of your life in Stockport, or even if you marked the 75th Anniversary of VE Day at home.

We are hoping to get the next newsletter out for the start of June. Please send anything you would like included to Judith and Garth Higgins, 11A Fortescue Road, Offerton, Stockport SK2 5DW or email it to [kl.higgins@ntlworld.com](mailto:kl.higgins@ntlworld.com).





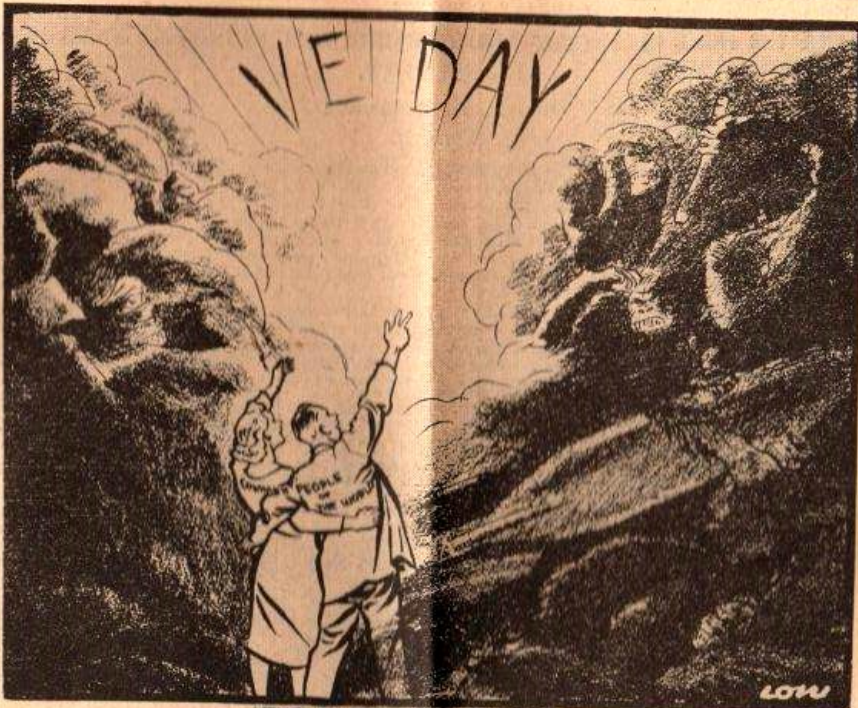
8th June, 1946

**T**O-DAY, AS WE CELEBRATE VICTORY, I send this personal message to you and all other boys and girls at school. For you have shared in the hardships and dangers of a total war and you have shared no less in the triumph of the Allied Nations.

I know you will always feel proud to belong to a country which was capable of such supreme effort; proud, too, of parents and elder brothers and sisters who by their courage, endurance and enterprise brought victory. May these qualities be yours as you grow up and join in the common effort to establish among the nations of the world unity and peace.

*George R.I.*

THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN, WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1945



**THE NIGHTMARE PASSES**

(By arrangement with the "Evening Standard.")





## VE DAY - JOIN IN FROM HOME

Although all the planned celebrations have had to be cancelled this year due to the coronavirus situation, there are still things going on that people can join in with from home. The following may be of interest:-

- 11am national moment of remembrance and a 2 minute silence
- Everyone is encouraged to join in with the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3pm on Friday 8th May by standing up at home and raising a glass of whatever you choose and giving the 'Toast' - "To those who gave so much, we thank you".
- 9pm a pre-recorded message from the Queen will be broadcast on BBC1, the same time that her father, King George VI, gave his radio broadcast in 1945. Prince Charles has pre-recorded a message also where he reads an extract from his grandfather King George VI's diary from VE Day.
- The Royal British Legion is calling for people to join in with a UK-wide rendition of Dame Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again' at 9pm on VE Day following the Queen's speech and the BBC will be featuring the singalong as part of their VE Day broadcast.
- It has been suggested that people may want to decorate their homes with red, white and blue to mark the occasion and hold indoor or outdoor picnics at home instead of the many planned street parties that people were hoping to have.
- If you have online access, Bletchley Park will be marking the anniversary on Friday 8th May online with a digital 'Nation's Toast' at 3pm, and there will also be a special recording of a VE Day speech by 'Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill'.
- BBC Local Radio stations have asked people to mark the anniversary by making their own VE Day Great British Bunting.
- A 30 minute documentary entitled 'Captain Tom's War' will be shown on ITV at 8pm on Friday 8th May, telling the story of the part Tom played in World War Two.





## CHURCH OF ENGLAND

On their website, the Church of England has suggested ideas for use for church services around VE Day. Although some of us are able to join in with our Zoom services, not everyone can, so the following may be of interest for you to use in your worship at home.

### Suggested Bible Readings

Old Testament:- Micah 4 verses 1-4 God's promised time of peace  
Zechariah 8 verses 3-8 Living safely and at peace

New Testament:- 2 Corinthians 5 verses 16-21 The call to be reconciled  
Luke 15 verses 18-24 The welcoming joy of God

### Prayer For The Peace Of The World

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace;  
that the design of your great love lighten  
upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows  
and give peace to your church, peace among nations,  
peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



### The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;  
to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth,  
and all people, peace and concord;  
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
come down upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Thank you for the world so sweet,  
Thank you for the food we eat.  
Thank you for the birds that sing,  
Thank you God for everything.

Amen

Beryl Manley has asked that we include this children's prayer into this newsletter.





[Form I]

# THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY ORDER OF SERVICE

1945

¶ *The Clergy and choir having taken their places, the congregation shall stand and sing the first verse of*

*THE NATIONAL ANTHEM*

God save our gracious King,  
Long live our noble King,  
God save the King!  
Send him victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the King!

¶ *The congregation still standing, the Minister shall say*

*THE BIDDING*

BRETHREN, we are met together on this day to pour out our hearts in fervent thanksgiving to the God and Father of us all, and to dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of his Kingdom. We desire to thank him for deliverance from the hand of our enemies; for the devotion, even to death, of those who for the five years past have stood between us and slavery; and for the hopes of a better world for all his people. I bid you, therefore, lift up your hearts that you may tell the praises of our God, and pray that his wisdom may lead us, and his Spirit strengthen us, in the days that are to come.

*Minister* Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us;

*People* but unto thy Name give the praise.

*Minister* The Lord hath done great things for us already:

*People* whereof we rejoice.

*Minister* Praise the Lord, O my soul:

*People* and forget not all his benefits.

*HYMN*

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;  
To his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore his praises sing.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King.  
Praise him for his grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise him still the same for ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

*"Praise my Soul"*  
Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
In his hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely yet his mercy flows.  
Angels help us to adore him;  
Ye behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before him;  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

¶ *Then shall the Minister say,*

Now bless the Lord your God.

¶ *Then, the congregation having knelt down, shall be said*

*THE THANKSGIVINGS*

*Minister* We give thanks to thee, O Lord our Father:

For the call to do battle for the right,

For the unity of nation and empire,

For the maintenance of faith and hope in the darkest days,

*People* We thank thee, O Lord.

Pray for a new world.

○ MOST HOLY Spirit of God, from whom alone floweth the fulness of wisdom and life: Come in thine everlasting power and glory upon thy Church and into the hearts of men, to bring to the world a new birth of holiness, new understandings of truth and new unity in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with the Father and with thee liveth and reigneth, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Let us now make together our resolve to our Father in heaven.

¶ *Then shall be said by the Minister and people together, line by line,*

○ LORD GOD, we acknowledge thee as our Father: ourselves as thy children: our neighbours as our brethren:

And we dedicate to thy obedience: and to their service:

our hearts and minds, our wills and works:

Resolved to stand fast in thy faith:

to seek the help of thy Holy Spirit:

and to do battle for thy perfect Kingdom:

In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

○ OUR FATHER, which art in heaven. Hallowed be thy Name: Thy Kingdom come: Thy will be done: In earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For thine is the Kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Minister shall say,*

Finally, in the hour of rejoicing let us silently remember all those for whom the end of war is not the end of suffering.

¶ *At the end of the silence the Minister shall say,*

The Lord be mindful of them and bless them.

¶ *Then shall the congregation stand, and there shall be sung TE DEUM LAUDAMUS, or this*

*HYMN*

Before th'almighty Father's throne,  
Ye nations, bow with sacred joy;  
Know that the Lord is God alone;  
He can create, and he destroy.

His sovereign power, without our aid,  
Made us of clay, and formed us men;  
And when like wandering sheep we strayed,  
He brought us to his fold again.

*"Old Hundredth"*  
We'll crowd thy gates with thankful songs;  
High as the heavens our voices raise;  
And earth, with her ten thousand tongues,  
Shall fill thy courts with sounding praise.

Wide as the world is thy command;  
Vast as eternity thy love;  
Firm as a rock thy truth shall stand,  
When rolling years shall cease to move.

*THE BLESSING*

¶ *Let each one go forth from this thanksgiving to practise his dedication, advancing in the service of God, and making by his daily work and life an offering to the Creator for the new creation: to the praise of his holy Name and the good of all.*

*The second Hymn is from the Yattendon Hymnal. By permission of the Oxford University Press.*

LONDON

Eyre and Spottiswoode (Publishers) Ltd., 15 Bedford St., W.C.2  
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S.P.C.K., Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2

*Minister* For the trust and cooperation between the allied nations,  
For the mighty help of Russia and the United States of America,  
For the wholehearted loyalty of the Dominions and Colonies,  
*People* We thank thee, O Lord.  
*Minister* For our King and Queen,  
For the gift of great leaders,  
For the ready sacrifice of the whole people,  
For all who endured bravely in pain and loss,  
*People* We thank thee, O Lord.  
*Minister* For all who have laid down their lives that we might be free,  
*People* We thank thee, O Lord.

*(Here shall be made a pause for silent remembrance of the fallen)*

*Minister* For the daring and endurance of our navies,  
For the resolute bravery of our armies,  
For the skill and determination of our airmen,  
*People* We thank thee, O Lord.  
*Minister* For the devotion of doctors, nurses, and chaplains,  
For the protectors of our homes,  
For all who have laboured to provide food and the tools of war,  
*People* We thank thee, O Lord.  
*Minister* For thy sustaining power through toil and fear, agonies and most instant perils,  
For the issue awarded upon thy eternal judgment,  
For the promise of peace,  
*People* We thank thee, O Lord.  
*Minister* For these and all other blessings from the hand of God, let us give thanks in the words of the ancient psalm:

¶ *Then, all standing, shall be said these verses of*

*PSALM 136*

*Minister* O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious:  
*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.  
*Minister* O thank the Lord of all lords:  
*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.  
*Minister* Who only doeth great wonders:  
*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.  
*Minister* Who remembered us when we were in trouble:  
*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.  
*Minister* And hath delivered us from our enemies:  
*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.  
*Minister* O give thanks unto the God of heaven:  
*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.  
*Minister* O give thanks unto the Lord of lords:  
*People* for his mercy endureth for ever.

¶ *And all shall sing,*  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*LESSON: S. Luke 2, vv. 8-14*

The beginning of the everlasting Gospel of Peace.

And there were shepherds in the same country abiding in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. And an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you: Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased.

*HYMN*

Rejoice, O land, in God thy might,  
His will obey, him serve-aright;  
For thee the saints uplift their voice:  
Fear not, O land, in God rejoice.

*“Wareham”*

Glad shalt thou be, with blessing crowned,  
With joy and peace thou shalt abound;  
Yea, love with thee shall make his home  
Until thou see God's kingdom come.

He shall forgive thy sins untold;  
Remember thou his love of old;  
Walk in his way, his word adore,  
And keep his truth for evermore.

¶ *Here may follow*

*THE ADDRESS*

¶ *Then shall the people kneel; and the Minister, from the pulpit, shall call them to*

*SOLEMN DEDICATION*

Let us, as our best and only worthy thanksgiving, lay our lives before God in penitence for the past and resolve for the future, and dedicate ourselves anew to his service;

*Minister* That we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies:

*People* might serve him without fear.

*Minister* In holiness and righteousness before him:

*People* all the days of our life.

*Minister* Let us confess our forgetfulness of God, and our share of the sin that brought catastrophe upon the world.

¶ *Then shall all say together,*

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, longsuffering and of great goodness: We confess to thee, we confess with our whole heart: our neglect and forgetfulness of thy commandments: our wrong doing, speaking, and thinking: the hurts we have done to others: and the good we have left undone: O God, forgive thy people that have sinned against thee: and blot out all our transgressions: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ *Minister*

**G**RANT, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray now for a true and lasting peace.

**E**THERNAL GOD, in whose Kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, and no strength known but the strength of love: We pray thee so mightily to shed and spread abroad thy Spirit, that all peoples and ranks may be gathered under one banner, of the Prince of Peace; as children of one God and Father of all; to whom be the dominion and glory now and for ever. Amen.



Some of the following come from Parish Pump.

### **21<sup>st</sup> May - Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ**

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection!

Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

### **31st May - Pentecost**

Pentecost is the festival at which Christians celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit onto the disciples in Jerusalem (Acts 8 verse 1-31). It is celebrated on the fifth Sunday (50 days) after Easter, May 31st this year.





We realise that not everyone has access to the internet, so if this is the case and you feel you would like a copy of any of the printable pieces mentioned in the following article, please let us know and we can get them printed and sent out to you.

There is now a range of digital resources for to you connect with God at this difficult time, provided by the Church of England. These include:

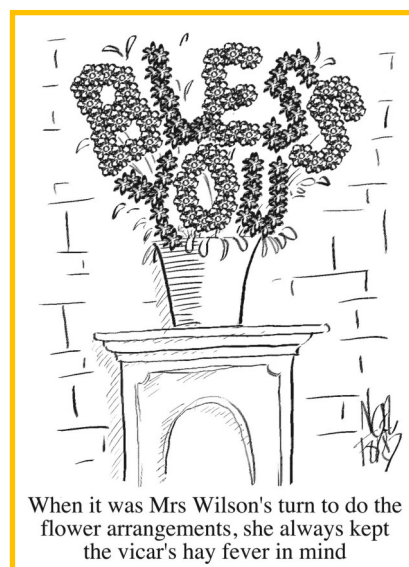
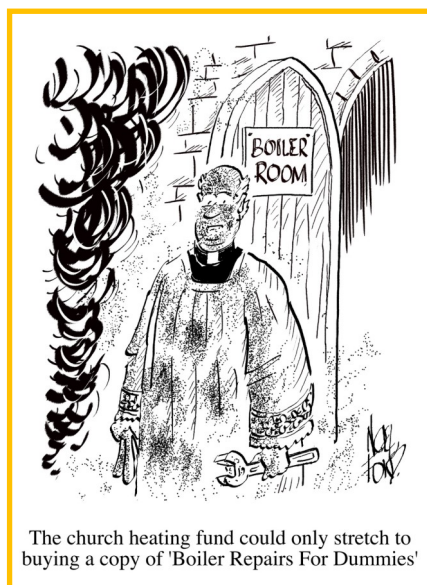
Time to Pray app (<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>) which is free and has an accompanying daily audio offering on SoundCloud and iTunes.

Mental health reflections (<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/supporting-good-mental-health>)

Tips to tackle isolation (<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/dealing-loneliness-and-isolation-five-top-tips>)

Finally, there are the Church's smart speaker apps, which provide a range of Christian resources. <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/our-smart-speaker-apps> In March alone, the number of people using the Alexa app rose by more than 70 per cent.

More details at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>





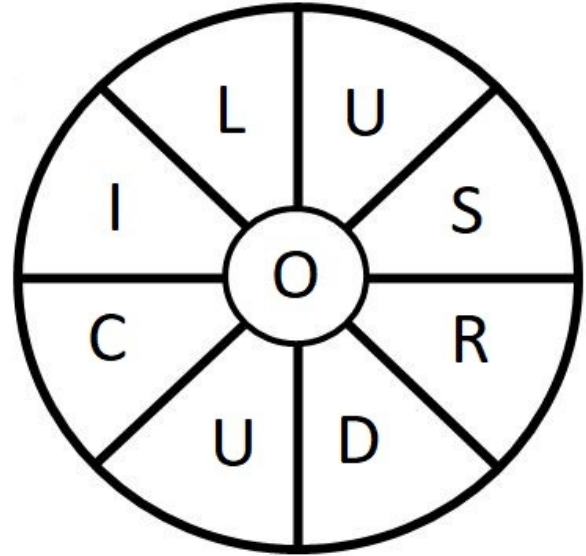
KEEP BUSY

**Word Wheel**

How many words can you make using the letters in the word wheel?

Words must be four letters or more, each word must contain the central letter O. Plurals and proper nouns are not allowed. There is at least one nine letter word.

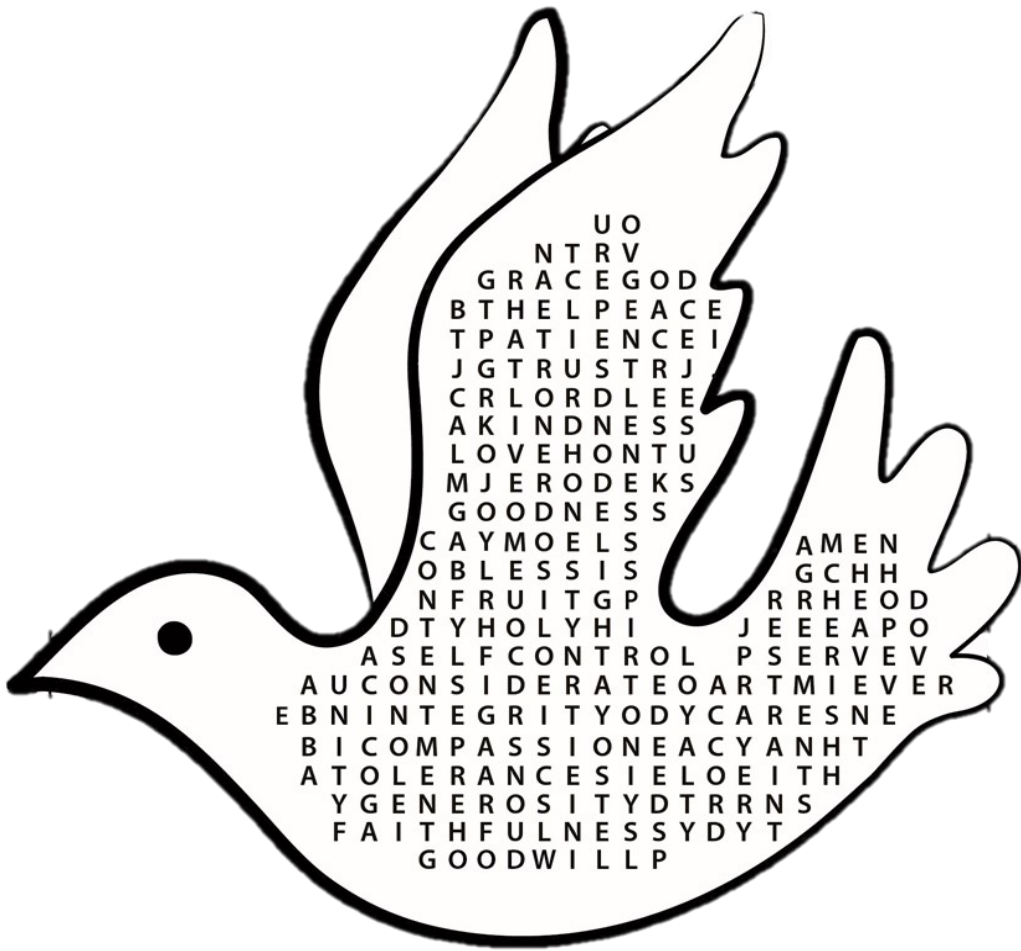
Good score 11+ Excellent 18+



**Sudoku**

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





### Wordsearch

Can you find the following words in the image above:-

- |              |            |              |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Accord       | Generosity | Loyalty      |
| Agreement    | Gentleness | Patience     |
| Calm         | Goodness   | Peace        |
| Care         | Goodwill   | Rest         |
| Cherish      | Help       | Restraint    |
| Considerate  | Honesty    | Self Control |
| Compassion   | Integrity  | Serve        |
| Contentment  | Joy        | Spirit       |
| Delight      | Kindness   | Tolerance    |
| Faithfulness | Live       | Trust        |
| Fruit        | Love       | Unity        |



## Worth remembering

A man felt he was overloaded in the 'trouble shooting department' of his office, until he found this memo on his desk. "Be thankful for the problems, for if they were less difficult, someone with less ability would have your job."



## Recipe

### Kofta Meatballs

Serves 4

**500g minced beef or lamb**

**1 onion finely chopped**

**2 teaspoons ground cumin**

**1 teaspoon ground mixed spice**

**Pinch of cayenne pepper**

**Handful of chopped coriander leaves**

**Ground black pepper**

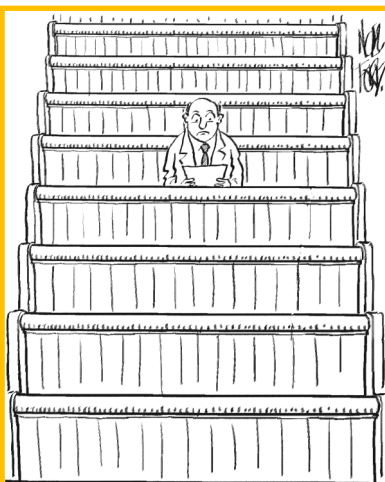
**1 tablespoon olive oil**

**Lemon wedges, to serve**

Blend all the ingredients except the oil in a food-processor until smooth

Take a small handful of the mixture and, using your hands, roll it into a ball or oval shape. Repeat until you have used all the mixture to make 16 meatballs. (If you wet your hands first it will help prevent the mixture sticking to them)

Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan and fry the meatballs until they are golden brown and cooked through. Drain on absorbent kitchen paper and serve with lemon wedges, couscous, rice and a green veg or salad.



With the congregation depleted by the bug that was going around, it suddenly dawned on Roy that he wouldn't be able to get away with just miming to the hymns this week



There was no more dozing off after the vicar started serving the extra-strength coffee *before* the service



**LAST NEWSLETTER'S CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

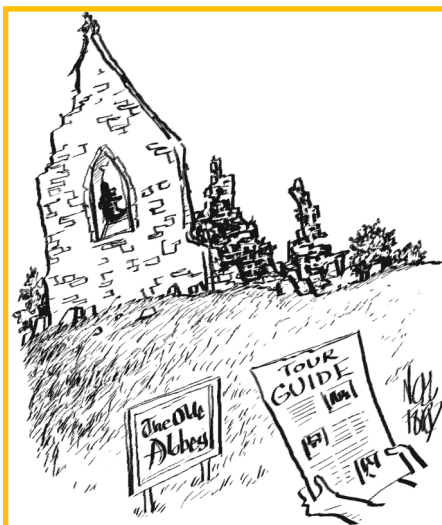


S	T	O	P		C	A	L	L	U	P	O	N
T		R		C		B		L		U		O
R	E	G	U	L	A	R		O	C	T	E	T
A		A		E		A		Y		E		E
I	N	N	E	R		H	U	D	S	O	N	
G					I		A			L		I
H	O	L	Y	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	O	N
T		A				S		S				N
	M	Y	S	E	L	F		S	E	E	T	O
B		D		N		A		H		N		C
A	B	O	U	T		I	T	E	R	A	T	E
L		W		E		T		R		C		N
M	O	N	A	R	C	H	Y		S	T	E	T



**LAST NEWSLETTER'S SUDOKU SOLUTION**

4	2	1	7	9	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	6
8	<b>7</b>	5	2	6	<b>3</b>	4	9	1
3	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	1	8	4	7	2	5
5	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	2	6	1	3	7
2	1	7	5	3	9	8	6	4
6	3	4	8	7	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	9
9	8	6	3	1	7	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	2
1	5	3	<b>6</b>	4	2	9	<b>7</b>	8
7	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	5	8	6	1	3



A summer holiday visiting old ruins was just the thing to put the vicar's leaky roof problems into perspective

Grandad was babysitting when he heard his little grand-daughter muttering the alphabet over in hushed tones. "What are you doing?" he asked her. "I'm praying," she replied. "I can't think of the right words so I just say all the letters. God will put them together for me 'cos He knows what I'm thinking."





# The Stockport Sunday School Magazine.

All the following pieces were taken from the School's magazine from May and June 1945.

MAY, 1945.

If this notice is not already too late, it would seem that the declaration of Peace is very near at hand, and it is fitting that the S.S.S. should hold a special service to celebrate the occasion.

Whenever, therefore, the happy declaration is made, a special service will be held on the following Sunday morning at 10-30, and the 9-30 service will not take place.

If opportunity occurs, the service will be duly advertised, but this is, of course, dependent on the day the declaration is made.

Be prepared then, whether or not the meeting is advertised, to attend this service of thanks giving, and let nothing hinder your presence.

"O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

## Lancashire Hill School.

Thought for the month:

The garden of England's ours, my boys,

But to rule ourselves remains,  
For the man who governs and rules himself  
Is ever the man who reigns.



As these notes are being written it appears highly probable that the war in Europe will very soon be terminated and the last shots be fired. Wholesale slaughter of human beings will be an inglorious memory, never to be forgotten. The end will be ample reason for expressions of great joy, for rejoicings, for revelry, but not, as some highly intellectual people suggest, for orgies of intoxication. All good Christians will temper their festivities with a thought for those who have given their lives for the cause, for those bereaved parents and wives and children in whose homes there are now vacant chairs, never to hold in comfort again those who were called away in service for their country. And, more important still, they will hasten to get down on their knees and give thanks to Almighty God for the ending of a war which has been more terrible, more horrific, more despicable than anything throughout history. Men must now turn their thoughts to better ideals, to re-building out of the chaos of a stricken world a new order and lasting peace. This can only be achieved by calling in God, by living with God, by doing His will. It seems now that the opportunity is near at hand. May God help us to grasp it and hold on to it.

## STOCKPORT SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Under the Gracious Patronage  
of Her Majesty Queen Mary)

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

A SPECIAL SERVICE

Will be held in the School

on the

SUNDAY MORNING

FOLLOWING VE-DAY at 10-30.



JUNE, 1945.

As Victory Day occurred after the closing date for entries [for the Walking Day Hymn Competition], it was suggested that Mr Barlow might like to add a Victory verse, and this explains how [the following] verse came to be written.

As shouts of vict'ry fill the air  
Our hearts o'erflow with praise,  
Thou hast our strong Defender been,  
To Thee our songs we raise.  
With steadfast high intent we move  
Nearer that perfect day,  
When wars throughout the world shall cease,  
And Christ shall reign alway.

Sunday, May 13, proved to be a very important day in the history of our School. Not only was it the Scholars' Festival, but it was also Victory Sunday, a day of thanksgiving.

On the morning, at 10-30, a special united service of prayer and thanksgiving was held in the Centenary Hall, conducted by our General Inspector, Mr. Edmund Barlow.

The thanksgiving services were merged into a festival for the afternoon and evening and the day was a very happy one.

Owing to Victory Day services being held in all churches throughout the country, the Rev. L. M. Wheeler was unable to make the journey from Caterham, Surrey, as he had to take special services in his own church on V(E)-Sunday.

His place was taken by Alderman Charles Royle, J.P., who spoke at both services, and worthily upheld the high traditions of this Festival.



Taken from 'A Brief History of the Stockport Sunday School' written for the Bi-centenary in 1984 by Mr J Gosling, our late Senior Inspector

1944 passed into 1945 and still the war continued. In the ensuing months the news from the war fronts grew brighter and brighter and on May 8, 1945 we heard the news of the unconditional surrender of Germany. So it was that Sunday May 13 proved to be a very important day in the history of our School. Not only was it the Scholars' Festival but it was also Victory Sunday, a day of thanksgiving.

The war in the Far East still went on. Two months later the end came suddenly. Emperor Hirohito announced his acceptance of the Allied terms on August 14 and the formal surrender was signed on September 2.

What a formidable task of reconstruction now awaited the nation. The toll of war both in the loss of human life, suffering and destruction was almost too great to comprehend and the tasks of Government in peace would be as formidable as those in war. What of Stockport Sunday School? Faithfully and courageously the work had gone on. How would the School fare in the aftermath of war? Many believed that things would go on very much as before as they did indeed for a year or two. Then, once again, the School faced a new challenge, declining membership, demolition of all the housing in the area, old buildings sadly in need of repair and limited finances, all this applying to the Branch Schools as well. As the School accepted the challenge, great changes took place, but it survived and in new pastures continued its work.

