



# Stockport Sunday School

March 2021 Newsletter 13



I've recently been reading a commentary on a selection of readings from Psalms. It's a book of the Bible best described as a collection of expressions of praise, and prayers which address, often in very plain-spoken ways, the individual writer's current relationship with God.

One of the selected readings - Psalm 42 - particularly caught my attention. Its opening words: 'As the deer pants for streams of water', are paraphrased in the opening lines of a hymn (No. 37 in Mission Praise) which we often hear sung, followed by the words -- 'so my soul longs after you.'

However, the ensuing lines of the psalm and the hymn, take very different paths. While the hymn is a profession of faith and worship, the psalm is written by a person in distress, lamenting his situation.

He is downcast, oppressed by his enemy, feels forgotten by God. Most of all he misses being able to take part in the worship of God in the temple. The place of the temple, in worship, was of great importance to the Jewish nation and the psalmist remembers how he used to "lead the procession to the house of God, with joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng."

Yet, despite his travails, he uses these memories of happier times to sustain himself and to reaffirm his trust in God, his Saviour.

When Moses and the Israelites escaped from Egypt, it was many years before they eventually found a home in the promised land under the leadership of Joshua, and nearly 500 years before Solomon was finally able to build the temple in Jerusalem. It was from those times that the psalms began to be collected for use in temple and synagogue worship. This was a great landmark in Jewish history and their worship of God, and the psalmist's sadness at his current predicament is fully understandable.

While perhaps church buildings are not as central to Christians and modern generations nowadays, they can still have a powerful impact for believers. We probably all have our favourites - St Paul's Cathedral, with its magnificence; Durham, its solidity a potent reminder of the faith and commitment of the early church in Britain; Salisbury, with its impressive spire; Coventry cathedral's modern style, with its feeling of spaciousness. But, if you enjoy visiting churches when away from home, sometimes it is the small village churches that can provide you with a feeling of peace; of being in a place that has been the spiritual centre for the life of its local Christian community for many generations.

All these places can be significant aids to worship. But buildings don't make a church - it is the people who congregate there who do that. The buildings have spiritual value, in the sense they can provide the context for our past experiences in our journeys of faith - memories of milestones in our lives, where special things happened, where we formed friendships, received supportive guidance.

For nearly a year now, due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the Coronavirus

pandemic, we at SSS and LHSS have been unable to meet up at our respective venues for our Sunday afternoon services. We have missed being in our regular place of worship. However, thanks to Stuart Dean's technical skills, and Judith Higgins' organisation, we have been able to gather together as one congregation, online or by telephone, and maintain our fellowship.

However, it is not the same as physical companionship, and we miss the presence of those members of our congregations who do not have online access. We look forward to the day when we can once more all be together as a worshipping community.

But, in the meantime, let us recall St Paul's words in his letter to the Corinthians. He likens his role in establishing the church in Corinth to that of a builder laying the foundations. But, he tells the Corinthian church - 'Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's spirit lives in you.'

If we are honest, like the Corinthians, we each have our faults and shortcomings, but Paul tells us we should remember that we each also have gifts that God wants us to use and to share in His service. So let us remind ourselves that despite our weaknesses, we are each of us a dwelling place for God's spirit to do His work here on earth. As we progress through this season of Lent, let us keep that in mind. Let us think how we can allow God into all aspects of our lives to make us worthy servants of Jesus our Lord.

And, wherever and however we gather together, let us praise God, our Heavenly Father, in the words of the aforementioned hymn :-

You alone are my strength, my shield  
To you alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship you



The following prayer is one of the prayers from the month of prayer leaflet published by the Archbishops of Canterbury, York, and other Church leaders for the second period of lockdown:-

**Loving God,  
at this time of crisis,  
when so many are suffering, we pray for our nation and our world.  
Give our leaders wisdom, our Health Service strength, our people hope.  
Lead us through these parched and difficult days to the fresh springs  
of joy and comfort that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday wishes to Judith Curry who celebrates her special birthday on 5<sup>th</sup> March.



## ANNIVERSARIES



Beryl Manley has told us that this year marks the tenth anniversary of the Knit and Natter Group, which started on 2nd February 2011. The ladies hope that it will not be too long before they can mark this event at Compass Point.

In September, the Tai Chi group will also be celebrating their tenth anniversary.



LANCASHIRE HILL SCHOOL.

On 8th May this year, we should be celebrating the bicentenary of Lancashire Hill Sunday School. These celebrations too might have to be delayed slightly until we can all meet together.



## HILARY WOOD

We were all pleased to learn that Hilary is back home and doing well and still receiving physiotherapy. She had hoped to join us at the last zoom service but her home internet connection went down. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting, Hilary.

## FROM THE TREASURER

I am sure that everyone is delighted with the newsletter we receive every month. Normally at the start of a new year, we pay for the magazine, and for some members, the postage.

Many things have changed since the Covid 19 pandemic and the School has decided to cover the cost of the production of the newsletter, paper, printer toner etc, but we would ask those people who receive their newsletter by post to pay the cost of postage, 12 copies x 66p stamp £7.92.

Please make cheques payable to 'Stockport Sunday School' and send them to:-

Mrs J Sellers  
5 Baytree Drive  
Bredbury  
Stockport  
SK6 2PX



Thank you to Joan Heald for a further donation in lieu of collection.

Joan is patiently waiting for her second knee operation after having a cancellation one week into the pandemic in March 2020. We hope it won't be too long and that your pain will soon be a thing in the past.

## CONGRATULATIONS

In the last 12 months, we all know how very hard our NHS staff have had to work, so it was lovely to hear from Jean Norton that the hard work, commitment and 'Going the Extra Mile' that Anne Magee has put in to help with the vaccination programme in Blackpool, along with her team, has been acknowledged, as can be seen in the images included. Anne you have always worked hard and do such an amazing job, and certainly deserve this recognition.





## ZOOM SERVICES



### ZOOM SERVICE, SUNDAY JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2021

Judith Higgins took the service on January 31st. Her theme was the call of the first disciples and how Jesus taught them a new set of values. The four gospels give different details of how the four men were asked to leave their jobs and families and become 'Fishers of men'. What made them follow Jesus? Had they already heard Jesus preaching? Luke tells us that Jesus left the desert with the 'Power of the Spirit' and his fame went through the regions. Did Simon Peter already know Jesus? Before he tells us of Jesus asking Simon to follow Him, he tells of Jesus' visit to his house where He healed Simon's mother-in-law. In his gospel John tells us that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist and heard John say after he had baptised Jesus that He was the Son of God and Andrew followed Jesus and spoke with Him and went home and told Peter that he had found the Messiah.

The disciples lives would never be the same. They heard Jesus preach and perform many miracles and He gave them a new set of values. The Jews believed in an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, but Jesus taught His followers to 'turn the other cheek', 'love your neighbour and your enemy', 'forgive others' and 'give without expecting any return'.

Becoming a Christian does not mean that we will have an easy life. Many early Christians were called upon to make great sacrifices, some even giving up their lives for their faith.

I don't think any of us will be asked to pay that price but what does God want from us? Perhaps Christina Rossetti has the answer in the last verse of her carol, 'In The Bleak Midwinter'.

*What can I give Him  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man,  
I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him -  
Give my heart.*

### ZOOM SERVICE, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2021

Beryl led the service on February 14th. Her first hymn, the carol 'We Three Kings' had been recorded at the Royal Albert Hall, the orchestra played the well-known tune to the carol but it was accompanied by cymbals and other instruments which gave it a very eastern sound.

Beryl's prayer reminded us that God is always with us. The next part of the service was a little different as the next two hymns were accompanied by videos.



The first was 'All In The April Evening'. The videos illustrating the words of the hymn showing sheep on the road, in fields with little lambs, and out on the hills, there was a picture of Jesus on the cross and then the three crosses on the hillside and then Jesus as the Good Shepherd with his sheep.

Her reading was Psalm 121, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills."

The next hymn, 'The Lord's My Shepherd' to a modern setting was accompanied by a video following the course of a stream through a wood.

As it was Valentine's Day, Beryl read the Helen Steiner Rice poem, 'Somebody Loves You' (about God's abiding love for us) and she also asked Stuart to play Russell Watson singing 'Caruso'.

The service closed with the resounding hymn, 'Shine Jesus Shine', again recorded at the Royal Albert Hall.

Thank you, Beryl.



### FUTURE ZOOM SERVICES

We would love to hear from anyone (or a group of people) willing to take a zoom service.

If you have a favourite hymn or Bible reading you would like us to include in a service, please let us know.

The next dates for our Zoom services are:-

March 14th Judith Curry

\*March 28th Palm Sunday Walter Stead

\*April 4th Easter Sunday

**\* Please note the two consecutive Sundays**



# LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Happy Birthday

14 March - Eileen Harrington



## Kites

Although Kites were not able to put on their normal Pantomime this year we had a virtual Pantomime re-run where we showed old performances via Facebook Live. These were well attended.





## Recipe

### Extra mature cheddar muffins

Makes 12

*300g self-raising flour*  
*1 tsp baking powder*  
*½ tsp bicarbonate of soda*  
*25g caster sugar*  
*150g extra mature cheddar cheese*  
*300ml milk*  
*2 eggs, beaten*

Preheat oven to Gas 6/200°C/180°C Fan and line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper cases. Sift together all the dry ingredients into a bowl and lightly mix very gently.

Whisk together the eggs and milk in a jug. Gently fold liquid into the dry ingredients, taking care not to over mix.

Divide the batter between the muffin cases and bake for 18-20 minutes or until well risen and golden. Serve warm or cold

The hearer of God's Word ought to be like those animals that chew the cud; he ought not only to feed upon it, but to ruminate upon it.

*Augustine*



Content makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor.

*Benjamin Franklin*



Regret is an appalling waste of energy; you can't build on it; it's only good for wallowing in.

*Katherine Mansfield*





## THE DENTIST

Oh! How I hate going to the dentist!  
Alas! It's come round once again.  
I panic, just thinking about it.  
I know there will be lots of pain!

My dentist is young and quite handsome,  
But that doesn't help me today.  
I lie flat, with heart wildly thumping  
and wish I was 10 miles away!

I envy the TV and film stars  
with teeth all so even and white.  
I'm struggling to keep my few relics,  
I soon won't be able to bite!

I dread all the water that gushes  
in a torrent and whoosh down my throat.  
I always feel that I am drowning.  
So please, someone, keep me afloat!

Because of the lockdown and Covid  
my teeth have had no t.l.c.  
I'm dreading being told, "This is hopeless",  
three extractions for you it will be!

Just leave me a few teeth, dear Dentist,  
so that they will show when I smile.  
Farewell to the crunchy and chewy,  
I may have to drink soup for a while!

But, maybe if I'm very lucky  
"A deep clean today", he may say.  
So, I'll suffer the prodding and chipping,  
Just to take all my teeth home today!



Margaret Morris Jones

## ST APOLLONIA

Thank you, Margaret, for your poem, we all look forward each month to your contributions. Reading it made me wonder if there was a patron saint for dentistry, and I found out that St Apollonia is that saint and her day is celebrated on February 9th.

She lived in the second century AD and was martyred in 249AD in Egypt in an uprising against the Christians during the rule of the Roman Emperor Trajan Decius. She refused to denounce her faith and when threatened with death by fire, she pretended to consider this, but instead prayed and martyred herself by jumping into the flames. It is thought that she is patron saint of dentistry and toothache due to the torture she endured, and in artwork she is often depicted with a pair of pincers holding a tooth or with a golden tooth suspended from a necklace.

Thank you, Rosie, for providing the following articles from St George's Church Grapevine for our readers to enjoy.

### WORD OF THE YEAR - TOO MANY TO CHOOSE

Each year the Oxford English Dictionary chooses to name a word of the year. But last year, 2020, it was left speechless as there were too many to choose from. So, for the first time ever, it has chosen not to name a word of the year. The rival dictionary, Collins, beloved of Scrabble players, chose 'lockdown' for its word of the year in November 2020.

Suddenly we have all become armchair epidemiologists, routinely talking about the 'R number', 'getting the R down' or 'bringing the R below 1'. 'Covid-19', first recorded on 11 February 2020, in a report by the World Health Organisation, quickly overtook 'Coronavirus' in frequency of use. Also 'flatten the curve' and 'community transmission' became everyday phrases.

Other words or phrases which have increased in frequency since 2019 are: 'following the science'; 'pandemic'; 'circuit breaker'; 'lockdown'; 'shelter-in-place'; 'bubbles'; 'face masks' and 'key workers'.

The need to work from home has affected the use of language with 'remote' and 'remotely'; 'mute' and 'unmute' and 'workation' and 'staycation' increasing in usage.

Other news events have also dominated use of language: 'impeachment'; 'acquittal'; 'mail-in'; 'Black Lives Matter' and 'BLM'. The term 'QAnon' and 'conspiracy theory' also increased in usage on 2019. Interestingly, the use of 'Brexit' dropped by 80% last year!

So, in a year that left the OED speechless, 2020 produced more new words than any other.

*Rosie Stead*

### THE WHITE LION PUB ON GREAT UNDERBANK WINS AN AWARD

Not just 'an award' but a prestigious award, at last year's North West regional construction awards.

The pub, which had been derelict for more than 10 years, now won best in class in the conservation and regeneration category at the virtual awards ceremony. This Grade II-listed building, has recently been transformed into 11 one and two-bedroomed apartments, thanks to a £2.4m investment by Trafford Housing Trust alongside the local council.

Councillor David Meller, cabinet member for regeneration and economy at Stockport Council, said: 'Creating new homes to this standard is vital to establish the town centre as a location of choice in South Manchester, and breathes new life into what was formerly a disused building.'





The building looks fantastic and has been given the respect it deserves in its new life as luxury apartments.'

The renovation was part of the council's £7million investment in the Underbanks and Market Place area. The White Lion was rebuilt several times over the centuries and was re-fronted in a mock Tudor black and white style, in 1823.

It was sympathetically restored. The grand staircase, original glass and unique turret room have all

been preserved and finished in a modern design, whilst the original pub sign has also been incorporated into the development, giving a nod to the past and its former life.

*Edited version of an article which appeared in the Stockport Express  
23 December 2020*



Thank you, Judith Curry, for supplying this interesting letter.

### **PLAYING THE HARMONIUM**

F. P. HARTON

This letter, written to John Betjeman's wife, Penelope, by the rector of their local church near Wantage in Berkshire, was sent to me by Geoffrey Palmer. He had to read it at a Platforms performance at the National Theatre years ago. The Reverend F. P. Harton went on to be the Very Reverend, and the Dean of Wells.

Baulking Vicarage

My dear Penelope,

I have been thinking over the question of the playing of the harmonium on Sunday evenings here and have reached the conclusion that I must now take it over myself.

I am very grateful to you for doing it for so long and hate to have to ask you to give it up, but, to put it plainly, your playing has got worse and worse and the disaccord between the harmonium and the congregation is become destructive of devotion. People are not very sensitive here, but even some of them have begun to complain, and they are not usually given to doing that. I do not like writing this, but I think you will understand that it is my business to see that divine worship is as perfect as it can be made. Perhaps the crankiness of the instrument has something to do with the trouble. I think it does require a careful and experienced player to deal with it.



Thank you ever so much for stepping so generously into the breach when Sibyl was ill; it was the greatest possible help to me and your results were noticeably better then than now.

Yours ever,

F. P. Harton



The following is taken from Parish Pump.

### **14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH: MOTHERING SUNDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.





# PUZZLES

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



**Sudoku**

## WHO IS MY MOTHER?

Do you know the mother's name of the following biblical figures?  
(If needed, the Bible passage details can be found in the brackets)

1. Cain and Abel (*Genesis 4: 1-2*)
2. Joseph (*Genesis 30: 22-24*)
3. Ishmael (*Genesis 16: 15*)
4. Timothy (*2 Timothy 1: 5*)
5. Ruben (*Genesis 29: 32*)
6. Gad (*Genesis 35: 26*)
7. Samuel (*1 Samue. 1: 20*)
8. Obed (*Matthew 1: 5*)
9. Isaac (*Genesis 21: 3*)
10. Solomon (*1 Chronicles 3: 5*)
11. John (*Luke 1: 57-60*)
12. Esau and Jacob (*Genesis 25: 24-26*)
13. Jesus (*Acts 1: 14*)

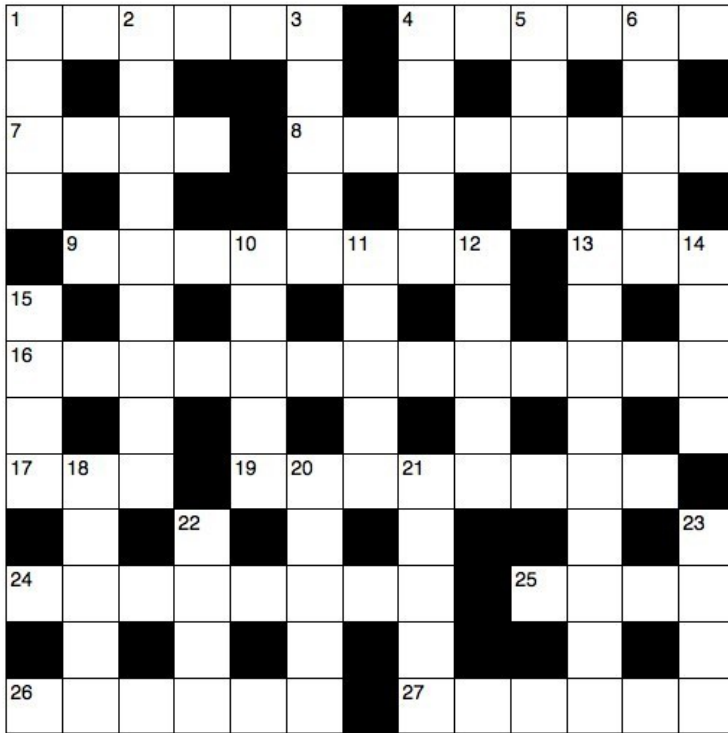


**MARY**  
encouraged Jesus  
to listen to his  
inner wisdom...  
she modeled for him  
unwavering courage...  
she taught him to  
respect and appreciate  
creation...  
she nurtured his  
compassionate heart.

Jean Moringstar. sngm



## CROSSWORD



Use the clues below to complete  
the crossword.

### Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

### Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18) (5)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)

## WORDSEARCH

Can you find the following words in the grid?  
The words can be found in any direction.

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

Alone	Kingdom
Angels	Me
Authority	Pinnacle
Bear	Serve
Bread	Spirit
Devil	Stone
Fasted	Strike
Foot	Temple
Glory	Temptation
Holy	Tempted
Hungry	Test
If	Wilderness
Jerusalem	World
Jordan	Worship



Life is full of ups and downs: after blessings, hard times often follow. They are not meant to destroy us but to help us grow spiritually by deepening our faith and dependence on God. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil - to give Him the opportunity to stand fast against the enemy. The devil's temptations were based on half-truths, which Jesus rejected by standing firm on the whole truth of Scripture. The truth sets us free!

## ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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

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



### SUDOKU ANSWERS

### WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



Kevin took himself off to his study to pray for peace

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

### CROSSWORD