



Stockport Sunday School

July 2021 Newsletter 17



One thing I have learnt, as time goes by, is that you can always learn something new from the Bible. Another feature is how much of Jesus' teaching and actions reflect aspects of the Old Testament. I had an illuminating experience of both these elements recently.

Often, in our services, the Bible readings will include extracts of the Old Testament relating the deeds and writings of venerated personages such as Elijah, Samuel, Jeremiah, Jonah. However, we rarely read or hear about Elisha.



This is a bit surprising, because Elisha had an eventful life. On God's command, Elijah chose him and anointed him to be his successor as God's prophet to the people of Israel. This role Elisha willingly accepted, faithfully serving God, and no prophet performed as many miracles as he did. There is a dramatic list of examples in the second Book of Kings which include him turning contaminated spring water into fresh water; helping a widow, whose two sons were to be sold as slaves to pay the family debt, by providing a continuous supply of oil for her to sell, (initially obtained from her friends at Elisha's suggestion), until that debt had been paid; the bringing back to life of the young son of another friend who had died suddenly; feeding 100 people with the 20 loaves brought by a man as his first fruits thanksgiving; curing the leprosy of Naaman, a highly ranked commander of the army of the King of Aram. It is an impressive list of acts and these miracles have distinct similarities to those carried out by Jesus during His ministry amongst us.

So, what messages do these accounts give to us?

Firstly, God cares for those who turn to Him in faith for help, and sometimes in surprising ways. The people who asked for water to be made clean; for the family who wanted their son to be brought back to life; - each trusted in Elisha as a channel of God's power.

For the woman whose children were threatened with slavery, it was her friends, and for the 100 hungry people, the single man with his loaves, who were the means which God used to solve the difficulty. God can use what may seem like ordinary people and small gifts to great effect. That may be where you and I come in.

The mighty general was persuaded to seek out Elisha for healing because of the actions of a humble slave girl. It's a reminder that God is no respecter of worldly status. (We can only assume that the general's wife was a good mistress for the young girl to care so much.) But first Naaman had to overcome his pride and instead trust in God's healing power - which he eventually did.





It can often be surprising who He may use, even in our present times. Who would have thought, 12 months ago, that a young footballer from a humble background would be the catalyst for the national government to do a policy U-turn and provide holiday meals for needy families? While we, as individuals, may not be able to make the same impact, whatever talents or resources we have God can use and wants to use them.

The overall message is that God helps His people - albeit often in unexpected, and sometimes mysterious ways. And possibly we may only appreciate it some time later, when we look back at the situation with the benefit of hindsight.

In the days ahead as we work our way through the current Covid situation, there will no doubt be problems for us to face, both in our personal lives and in our SSS activities. Whatever befalls, let us put our trust in God, and in the words of the well known hymn, let us 'take them to the Lord in prayer' so that His will may be done.

And in all things, let us bless the Lord - thanks be to God.

DONATIONS

Thank you to Anne Mather and Jean Norton for the generous donations recently received by the Treasurer. Also to Christine Moore who sent twenty pounds cash and asked that ten pounds go to Lancashire Hill Bi-Centenary, which has been passed on to Stuart.

Joyce Sellers

GET WELL SOON

We send our best wishes to all our friends who have not been feeling well over the last month and hope that they will soon be feeling better.

We are pleased to report that Joan Heald has had her long awaited knee replacement. We hope that she will soon be feeling the benefit of the operation.

TEAMS 4 U

We hope that some of you will be able to make up shoe boxes again this year.

Last year 137 boxes were sent from St Georges, Davenport Methodist and Stockport Sunday School.

It seems early to be thinking about Christmas boxes but they will be collected on November 18th.

Many of us are not yet venturing out to the shops as often as we did pre pandemic so it might take longer to collect items.

If you cannot make up a shoe box we will collect individual items for inclusion in boxes.



FOUNDERS' DAY, JUNE 27TH 2021

The weather was kind to us on June 27th and we were able to hold our Founders' Day service on the car park which meant we were able to sing. Twenty eight people attended in person and two on zoom.

Judith Higgins welcomed everyone, Norman Sellers led the prayers and Stuart Dean read the lesson, Ecclesiasticus chapter 24 verses 1-14, 'Let us now praise famous men'.

Our speaker, Walter Stead, said that the open air service reminded him of the old Walking Days when the procession ended with a service in the Castle Yard.

Members of the branch schools assembled in the Centenary Hall before joining the procession. The hall was an inspiring place of worship but also a good concert venue. Once a year, the Maia Choir and their pupils gave a two evening concert in the hall. It was always a sell out, 2,000 people attending each night. Walter thought our founders would have approved of children being introduced to the joy of singing. Music had always played a big part in the worship and social activities of the School.

Stuart played a recording of the Vaughan Williams anthem, 'Let us now praise famous men', based on the lesson from Ecclesiasticus. This had been sung at the Maia Concert and Heaviley Anniversary.

When we think of our founders, the names of Joseph and Matthew Mayer come to mind but thirty people signed the deed of the ground on which the 1808 building was erected. Eminent men in the town who played their part in establishing our School.



Walter told us that some men are born great, inheriting their position, eg royalty. Some achieve greatness eg by achieving success in their career, driven by ambition. Some have greatness thrust upon them, those who feel challenged to take on responsibility, a task or role they feel they have to accept, a vocation.

What motivated Matthew Mayer? Was it a call from God, something he had to do?

He became famous for answering God's call. He believed it was right to educate the poor and went ahead with the work despite opposition from many at the time.

Walter had read us a short list of names at the beginning of his talk and asked if we recognised any of them. They were names of some of our Jubilee Teachers, less known than Matthew Mayer, but men and women who had served our School for over fifty years. They have their memorial on the plaque in the hall.

But as the Bible says, "some there are who have no memorial whose righteousness has not been forgotten" at least in God's eyes.

There are many people who have played their part in the work of our School whose deeds have not been recorded on tablets.

Walter remembered joining the Junior Department at Heaviley Sunday School and his first teacher, Mrs Goodier who made him feel welcome and at home there. Without her encouragement, Walter might not have become our Senior Inspector and speaker, able to look back on many happy memories. He said he thought many of us would remember people at the School who had influenced them and helped them on their spiritual journey. Some of us had been teachers ourselves and played a similar part.

Covid has disrupted many aspects of our daily lives including religious activities.

Thanks to technology in the hands of Stuart Dean, we have been able to maintain regular services but we look forward to meeting again soon.



Getting back to 'normal' will require us all to play our part as our predecessors did.

With this in mind Walter encouraged us to go forth in confidence.

As we remember the history of our School

- let us be thankful for the tradition of service of past and present generations
- let us learn from their successes and setbacks
- may we keep our hearts and minds open to God's promptings
- and look for new opportunities to do His work here in our community.

Thank you, Walter, for an inspiring address.

Refreshments were served at the close of the service and it was a time to meet old friends despite social distancing.

We would like to thank all those who made the service possible, Stuart for all the sound equipment and recordings and the work he did in the building to cover covid restrictions, those who sanitised all the chairs and set them out, those who prepared and served refreshments, and of course all those who joined us for the service.

Thank you Joyce Darvil for the photo of the day and Stuart Dean for the still from the day.



ZOOM SERVICES



ZOOM SERVICE, JUNE 6TH 2021

Judith Higgins took the service on 6th June. Her theme for the afternoon was praise. Norman read Psalm 150, in which the writer urged us to praise God by playing many instruments, with singing and dancing.

Many psalms have been paraphrased and set to music. The first hymn, 'Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven' was based on psalm 103 and we also sang a version of psalm 23. Judith told us of how some of the hymns came to be written and a little about their writers.

Singing hymns is a good way of praising God but sometimes the hymns are so well known that we sing them without thinking about the words.

Judith then tested our knowledge of hymns by quoting ten well known lines or choruses from hymns and asked us which hymns they came from. All were well known, but it was very difficult to remember which hymns they actually came from.

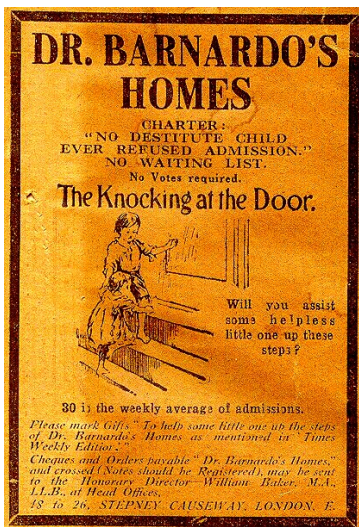
Perhaps next time we are able to join together to sing God's praise we will think about the words we are singing.



ZOOM SERVICE, JUNE 20TH 2021

Garth took the service on June 20th. His reading was Psalm 119 verses 127-136.

June 20th this year was Fathers' Day and several of our members were missing as they were spending the day with their fathers.



We are fortunate to have had fathers to care for us but not everyone has had the benefit of caring parents and Garth told us of the work started by Dr Barnardo in 1867 to care for orphaned children.

Thomas John Barnardo was born in Ireland but moved to London to train as a doctor and was shocked to see so many poor children living on the streets. He opened a ragged school to give them free education and later opened a boys' home to provide a roof over their heads and train them for work and found them apprenticeships. Barnardo's wife started a girl's village.

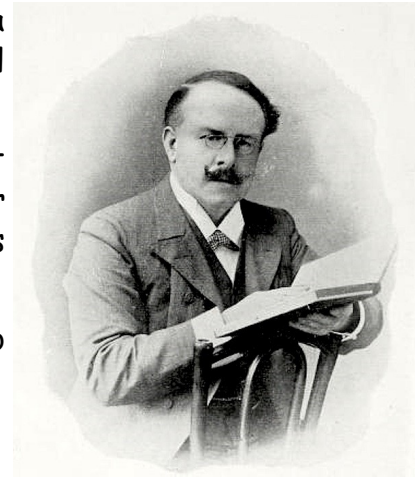
By the time Barnardo died in 1905, the charity had 96 homes caring for 8500 children.

As the needs of society changed so the work of Barnardo changed. Today the charity he

started support and protect children and young people facing a wide range of issues, from drug misuse to disability, sexual abuse and domestic violence.

One hundred and fifty years ago Barnardo promised to support those children in need of help - regardless of their circumstances, gender, race, disability or behaviour and his work still goes on today.

Thank you Garth for telling us about this remarkable man who became a father figure to many.



ZOOM SERVICES

The next zoom service will be on Sunday July 11th, when Stuart will be the speaker.

There will then be a break because of holidays.

The next services will be

August 1st Judith Higgins

August 15th Garth Higgins



The quality of life is determined by its activities. - Aristotle



I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth. - Isaac Newton



Be great in little things. - St Francis Xavier



Lancashire Hill Sunday School



Recipe

Strawberry Terrine

5 teaspoons powdered gelatine
300 ml water
300 ml orange juice
2 tablespoons Grand Marnier
Handful of large mint leaves
450g fresh strawberries, hulled and sliced

To Decorate:

6 whole strawberries, hulled and sliced
Thin strips of orange peel
Small mint or basil leaves

Put gelatine and 3 tablespoons of water into a small bowl and set aside for one minute. Stand the bowl in a pan of hot water and leave until the gelatine has dissolved. In a separate bowl mix the orange juice with the remaining water and add the Grand Marnier. Add the dissolved gelatine to the mixture, stirring until well blended. Chill in the fridge until mixture starts to turn syrupy.

Lightly oil a 1kg loaf tin or terrine dish. Spoon a little of the syrupy jelly over the base and sides of the tin/terrine and line with mint leaves. Chill in the freezer briefly.

Mix the remaining jelly with the sliced strawberries and spoon into the prepared tin/terrine. Chill in the fridge until firm enough to cut. Carefully unmould the terrine and cut into slices. Serve on a plate and decorate with fanned-out strawberries, strips of rind and mint or basil sprigs.



GOD'S GIFTS

I was sitting in my garden at the beginning of June, feeling sad about all the bad news which I'd just heard on the radio, political, national and international. Gradually, several things happened, which turned my day into a special one.



I noticed that my lovely magnolia, which had been badly damaged by the frost in April, had sprung back to life in a cascade of fresh, green leaves. Beautiful! I listened. A blackbird was singing overhead, sweetly and clearly and he sang on all afternoon - better

than any radio programme! Then, just a few feet away, a robin was splashing about in my newly acquired bird-bath, sending showers of spray sparkling in the sunshine.



Feeling uplifted and grateful for all the beauty around me, I continued to read my book, when, quite suddenly, from underneath a nearby hedge came a very small fox cub - the only



cub that I've ever seen in my garden, especially at 3.00pm in the afternoon! He was so close that I could have touched him. He saw me, stopped for a moment, then turned and disappeared back into the hedge.

I sat and thought about how wonderful our world is, if we are given the chance to sit quietly and appreciate it. A hymn and a poem came to mind.

*"What is this life, if, full of care,
we have no time to stand and stare?"*

And the hymn which I haven't sung for a long time.

*"To God, who makes all lovely things
How happy must our praise be.
Each day a new surprise He brings
To make us glad His world to see"*

Margaret M. Jones



ROBINSON'S BREWERY AND THEIR SHIRE HORSES

The death was announced recently of Peter Robinson, aged 89, former chairman of Robinson's brewery. Known as 'Mr Peter' to brewery staff and licensees, he joined the family business in January 1957, as Company Secretary, before becoming a director in 1962 and chairman in 1978 - a position he held for 42 years.



Peter and his two brothers, Dennis and David, were the fifth generation of Robinson's to go into the business and oversaw the firm's retail expansion towards the end of the 20th century. Now the brewery has Managing Directors, William and Oliver - the sixth generation of Robinson's.

The Unicorn Brewery, as Robinson's is known, started life as a Public House, the Unicorn Inn on Hillgate, and was purchased by William Robinson in 1838. His eldest son, George, brewed the first ale there in 1849. The Unicorn Brewery still rests on the foundations of that Public House on Lower Hillgate, Stockport. It rises through many floors to tower above the market place and is one of Stockport's iconic buildings.



There are guided tours of the brewery, starting with a steady climb up many steps from the Visitor Reception to the top of the building. From then downwards you are introduced to the art of brewing the many ales that Robinson's produce, finally arriving back at the Visitor Centre and you could then enjoy a meal in the restaurant, beautifully presented and accompanied by samples of Robinson's ales. Unfortunately, both the guided tour and the restaurant are currently closed, due to Covid restrictions. But the shop and museum remain open.

But no visit would be complete without a visit to the stables, opposite the entrance on Harvey Street, to see the two working Shire horses, Bobek and Mojo, who pull the dray. This no longer carries kegs of ale, but is still a familiar sight on Stockport's streets when the horses are being exercised.

Having spoken to the Marketing and PR Assistant at Robinson's, Sam Kennerley, to obtain more information about the Shire horses, he suggested that I send him a list of questions and he would obtain the answers. Sure enough, within 24 hours I received the following detailed information:-

Which are the regular working horses? Three are mentioned, Bobek, Mojo and Boris. Do they take it in turns to work?



Bobek and Mojo are our show geldings and reside at the stables at the brewery.

They are both driven as a single (one horse pulling the dray) or work as a pair (both horses pulling the dray).

Pre-pandemic, they attended shows up and down the country, PR appearances and work with tenants to support the business.

Boris is only a yearling gelding and would not be broken to work until at least the age of 4, he lives in a field at the moment.

Have they been able to continue working during the pandemic - if not, where were they stabled?

As the Robinsons pubs were closed through the pandemic, they have not been able to work, so they have been living out in fields owned by the brewery.

Are there any events planned during this summer where they might make an appearance?

We won't be showing this year, our main focus is to provide support to tenants and attend their pubs for events etc. and to draw in the public.

We started doing this when we returned to work in April and now have a packed calendar - all our events are posted on our Facebook page - Robinsons Shires.

How many Shires do Robinson's own/maintain in their breeding programme?

The brewery own 8 shire horses at present:

Mojo

Bobek

Boris

Jeff - he is our retired gent, who used to work at the brewery and was named Royale in his "show" days. He now keeps the broodmares and foals company.

Lady (broodmare)

Dolly (broodmare)

Hillgate Cordelias Charm (Dolly's foal), known as Dilly

Hillgate Doris Day (Lady's foal), known as Doris

Who gave birth to what earlier this year? Two registered mares were both in foal.

Lady gave birth to Hillgate Doris Day (Lady's foal)



Dolly (broodmare) - Hillgate Cordelias Charm (Dolly's foal)

Dolly is scanned back in foal - her next foal will be born Spring 2022



Do all the horses have names? How are they chosen?

All the horses have names.

They have stable names - these are their everyday names, which are chosen by the stables team and the Robinsons.

And they have registered names, which are on their passports when they are first registered as foals with the Shire Horse Society.

Show names are made up of a "prefix" - this usually relates to the breeder and then the rest of the name is chosen by the breeder.

Robinsons have their own breeding programme with the prefix "Hillgate" (Hillgate is the name of the road the brewery is on), the rest of the name is chosen by the Robinson family, we are working our way through the alphabet, so the next foal names will begin with E and F.



Some additional facts:

Bobek and Mojo have their breakfast at 6.30am and their supper at 8.30pm each day. Each Shire can eat for up to 18 hours a day.

The Shires see the dentist every six months to check the health of their 12 teeth.

Bobek's favourite treat is Polos... He can devour a whole packet in seconds.

The Shires average speed in walk is 4 miles per hour.

The Shire horses have served Robinson's brewery for over 100 years, with only a brief interruption during WW1 when all the horses were sold for war duties. Before the arrival of the internal combustion engine, Robinson's Shires worked every day delivering traditionally brewed ales to local inns and hostelries. The present day sight of the Shires pulling the dray along Stockport's streets, evokes many memories of bygone days.

Rosie Stead

A BIG THANK YOU

We just wanted to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone who sends in articles, news, puzzles and suggestions for the newsletter. If there is something you would like to be included or you have a suggestion or would like to write a piece, these are always welcomed.



Thank you Judith Curry, who spotted this in the newspaper.

Anglican Twitter is a funny world. A discussion on there about the correct way to do communion led to a tweet from Emma Sivyer about a priest friend who filled in on Sunday and was ticked off after mass for not raising the host to a suitable height. The priest asked why this was so important and was told that it was the usual chap's signal for the tea lady to go and switch the urn on.



The following article is taken from The Parish Pump.

1ST JULY HENRY VENN OF THE CMS

Most Christians in the UK have heard of the Church Mission Society or CMS. Far fewer have heard of the Revd Henry Venn (1796-1873), whose father, the rector of Clapham, founded CMS in 1799, and who himself became the greatest missionary strategist of the 19th century.

Not that Henry Venn ever became a missionary himself; after Cambridge he served his curacy at St Dunstan's in Fleet Street, and then an incumbency at Drypool in Hull, before becoming vicar of St Johns, Holloway in 1834. But Henry Venn's parish-based ministry did not obscure his passionate interest in overseas evangelism, and in 1841 he accepted an invitation to become the honorary secretary of the Church Mission Society. That decision was to shape the history of overseas missions, and to make CMS into the most effective force in Britain for delivering effective overseas mission.

For Henry was an outstanding administrator, and his wisdom and management of the missionaries enabled CMS to grow and flourish. When Henry first began work on CMS, it employed 107 European clergy and nine local indigenous people. When he died in 1873, there were 230 European clergy and 148 local people in service.

After his resignation from St Johns Holloway in 1846, Henry devoted himself almost exclusively to the work of CMS. He was directly responsible for sending out 498 clergymen, all of them chosen by him, and with most of whom he continued in regular correspondence. He also established eight or nine bishoprics for the supervision of CMS missionary clergy and was usually involved in the appointments made.

Henry and a missions colleague in America were the first to use the term 'indigenous church', and they were way ahead of their time in seeing the necessity for creating churches on the mission fields that in time would become not only self-supporting, but also self-governing and self-propagating. In fact, Venn wrote with enthusiasm on this "euthanasia of missions," meaning that missionaries were only ever meant to be temporary, and not permanent.

All in all, Henry Venn's exposition on the basic principles of indigenous Christian missions was so powerful that much of it was later adopted by the Lausanne Congress of 1974.

But alongside Venn's passion for evangelism was his concern for social justice, and he frequently lobbied the British Parliament, especially the closure of the Atlantic slave trade.

In 1873, when he was 76, Venn died at his home in Mortlake, Surrey. He is buried in the churchyard.

PUZZLES

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



Sudoku

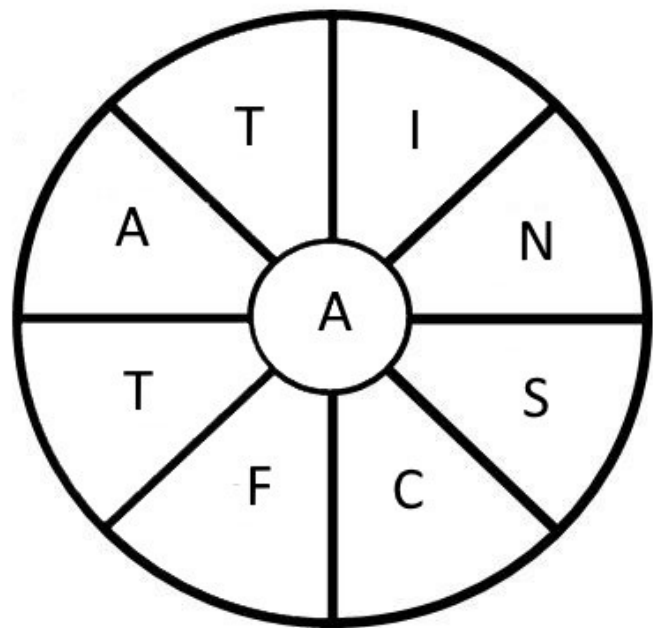


WORD WHEEL

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

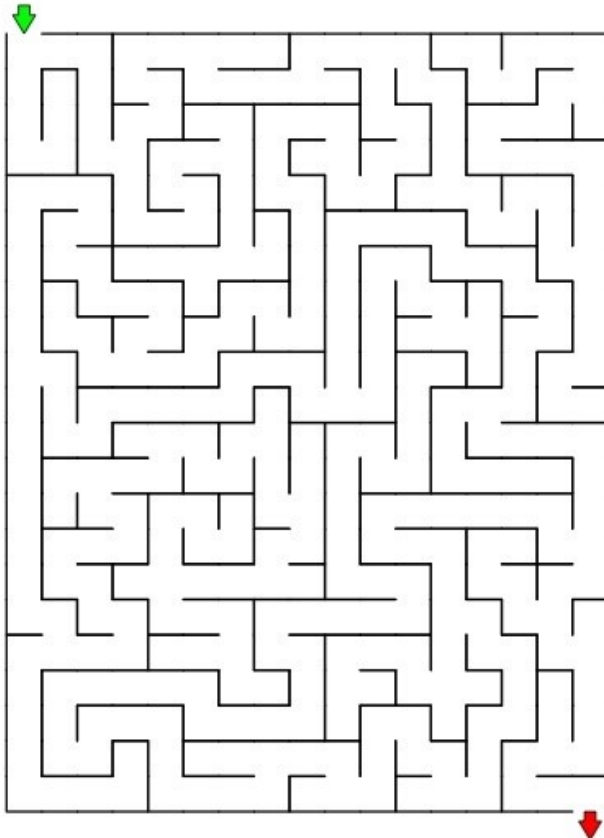
Words must be four letters or more, each word must contain the central letter A. Plurals and proper nouns are not allowed. There is at least one nine letter word.

Good score 9+ Excellent 13+



QUICK BIBLE QUIZ

1. Which Gospel is written by a doctor?
2. According to the Gospel of Matthew, where does Jesus's first public sermon take place?
3. Who is the high priest of Jerusalem who put Jesus on trial?
4. Who wrote many of the letters to churches in the New Testament?
5. What did Simon Peter do for a living?
6. What are we told to do in the fifth commandment?
7. Who was thrown into a lions' den by King Darius?
8. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
9. The name of the woman who gave birth to Moses?
10. What does David bring to Jerusalem to bless the religious city?
11. Who is the oldest man mentioned in the Bible?
12. What is the last word in the Bible?
13. What person in the Bible was a fast and furious driver?
14. Which apostle was a tentmaker?



MAZE

Can you find your way through the maze starting at the green arrow and exiting at the red arrow?



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.

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



DOUBTING THOMAS

If you have ever doubted aspects of your Christian **FAITH**, St **THOMAS** is the **SAINT** for you. His **FEAST** day is on 3rd July.

Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 disciples, was deeply devoted, but also very **HONEST** whenever he got **CONFUSED**. When Jesus spoke of going to his Father (John 14), Thomas was not **AFRAID** to ask Him **WHERE** His **FATHER** was. As for the **RESURRECTION**, that really **BAFFLED** Thomas. He **DEMANDED** to **SEE** the risen Jesus for himself - and **TOUCH** the **WOUNDS** in His **HANDS** and **FEET**. When Jesus appeared, Thomas' immediate **RESPONSE** was one of **WORSHIP**: "**MY LORD** and my **GOD**" (John 20).

Thus, Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of us down the centuries who also sometimes **DOUBT** Jesus. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the **RISEN**, crucified Christ, we can find **SUPPORT** for our own faith in Him.





ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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



SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

