

Stockport Sunday School

October 2021 Newsletter 20



Question:- Are you a confident person?

Do you think other people see you as being a confident person?

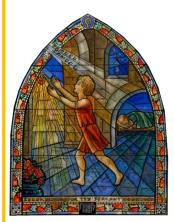
What does 'confident' mean?

The dictionary definition is 'a feeling of self-assurance in one's own abilities or qualities'.

For most of us, we would probably reply to the question by saying - 'In some things - yes'.

In fact we might think that someone who claims to be 'confident' in everything is either a genius or very misguided.

It is a fact that many people who achieve fame and success in life will admit they often feel



nervous before a performance; they need to have that touch of uncertainty to spur them to fully focus on the challenge of what they are about to do.

There again, if we only did the things we were 100% certain about, progress would be slow, to say the least - we might never learn to ride a bike or to swim, for example.

In life, we have to face challenges and on occasion step out into the unknown. It may be in minor ways, or sometimes in life-changing situations, where we might feel particularly unworthy, lacking in what we perceive as the necessary skills and



talents.

We read of situations in the Bible narratives, when God chooses individuals to take on a special role in life. Two particular occasions that spring to mind are Samuel and Isaiah. Samuel was just a young boy of about 12 years of age, serving in the temple, when he heard God's call.

In later times, Isaiah was a prophet who saw God in a vision and is overcome by his sense of unworthiness. Despite their perceived inadequacies, the response of both of them to God's call was:-

'Here I am - send me'

These words are the theme of a popular modern hymn, - 'I, the Lord of sea and sky' - (one of the top 10 hymns of 2019) which includes the words:-

I, the Lord of sea and sky I have heard my people cry... ... who will be my light to them - who shall I send?

To which the chorus response is:

'Here I am Lord, is it I Lord'



It is an inspiring and challenging hymn for anyone who seeks to serve God in Jesus' name, and one which perhaps we might learn and use in our SSS services. It's a reminder that God calls all sorts of people to serve Him in all sorts of ways, despite their lack of confidence in their abilities.

There are inevitably times in our lives when a situation is daunting, when we feel outside our comfort zone. But I recently came across some words written by Rev. Sally Welch, Editor of the Bible Reading Fellowship New Daylight notes, which I found to be particularly encouraging, and I think they are worth sharing.

She writes :-

'When I was at theological college, I felt we sang the hymn 'I, the Lord of sea and sky' all the time – and I hated it.

Every time the chorus rolled round, I would be frantically thinking: "I don't think it is me that God is calling. How can it be? I am so bad at so much, what sort of priest will I make, and how can God possibly use me."

Over the years I have learnt to take heart from the things I can do, and not to weep too much over the things I can't. I hope I have encouraged others to do the same. And at the heart of my ministry has always been the same call: "Whom shall I send?" and the same response: "Send me."

Send me with my inadequacies and my failures, my gifts and my strengths. Send me, and I will do my best to share your love with those around me. Send me, and I will learn to trust in your strength, and the way you work with the most unpromising material to accomplish your vision.'

I felt this was a message of encouragement for all of us who follow Jesus, as we try to grow in faith and understanding.

So, with this in mind, when the call comes, can <u>we</u> respond, as Samuel and Isaiah and Sally did, and say

'Here I am Lord Speak for your servant is listening.'



CLOCKS GO BACK!

Just a little reminder that the clocks go back on the evening of Saturday October 30th (or officially 2am on Sunday October 31st).





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We wish 'Happy Birthday' this month to:-

Walter Stead on October 3rd Elizabeth Keeling on October 6th Wendy Hill on October 19th Margaret Forster on October 26th

Maureen Jewsbury on November 4th



FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you to Anne Mather for the generous cheque for School funds.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN COLLECTION LANTERNS

It is time for the Action For Children (formerly National Children's Home) collection boxes to be emptied and the money to be sent to the charity. If you have a collecting box at home, can you please return it to Judith Curry.



Thank you.



SHOE BOXES

There will not be a Shoe Box Service this year, but we ask anyone who has made up a Shoe Box to bring it into School on <u>Sunday November 21st</u> when they will be blessed during the service before starting their journey to a deserving child. If you are unable to make up a Shoe Box, there will be a box in the entrance hall if you wish to put in any item to be included in a Shoe Box.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

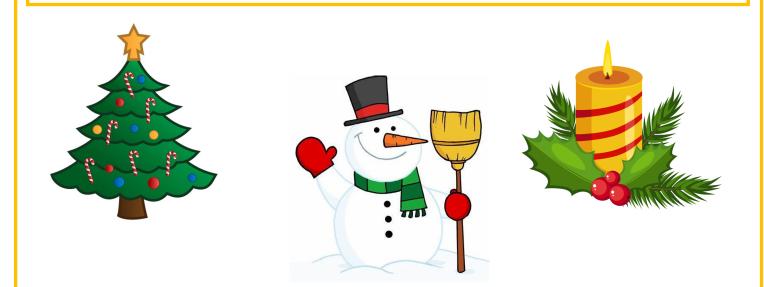
We hope to hold a Christmas Fair this year on November 13th 10-30 to 1-30, although this will be on a smaller scale than usual.

Refreshments will be on sale throughout the day, cakes, hot and cold drinks and of course bacon butties.

There will be the usual raffle, book and jigsaw stall, knitting, craft and jewellery, Rosie's stall, cake stall and second- hand toy stall.

Because of covid restrictions on social distancing and ventilation Father Christmas will not be able to attend this year and we will not have a bric a brac or tombola stall.

If you are able to donate raffle prizes or anything for the other stalls please give them to Judith Curry any Sunday before the fair. Cakes would be very welcome on the day of the fair. Please let friends and family know about this event so that we have a good attendance on the day.



CHRISTMAS CAKES

Judith Curry will be making Christmas cakes again this year in aid of School funds. Please contact Judith if you would like to order a cake.





SERVICES



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH

It was good to return to Compass Point for a 'live' service of Thanksgiving and reopening of the building on September 5th.

Members from Lancashire Hill and SSS joined together for this service. We were pleased to meet together in person, although socially distanced, and it was good to be able to sing together again. 'Thank you' Ken for playing the organ.

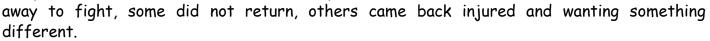
Stuart Dean led the service and welcomed everyone back. The prayers were led by Walter Stead and the lesson, Luke 14 beginning at verse 12, was read by Judith Higgins.

Norman began his address by saying he had chosen the lesson because it always reminded him of the Sunday School founders. Jesus told the rich man not to invite relatives, and rich

friends to his feast as he would be repaid when they invited him back. He should invite the poor, blind and helpless who could not repay him.

Norman said that is what our founders had done. They went into the streets to find the children who needed help and provided them with free education. Teaching them about Jesus but also teaching them to read and write. As more wanted to come they had to provide larger premises.

The School has faced many problems in its history, opposition from wealthy who did not want the poor educated, World War I when many went



The School started to provide entertainment putting on shows and pantomimes and sporting activities, hockey, lacrosse, tennis, cricket and bowls.

Then there was World War II when lives in this country changed. People wore gas masks, saw the effect of air raids around Manchester and even here in Stockport. Later the School provided a temporary home for refugees from the Channel Islands.

Many of our members, teachers and scholars, did not return from the battle fields.

More recently we have suffered from the Covid pandemic and Compass Point and the Triangle closed. Fortunately Stuart was able to link many of us via zoom services.

Our next step will be to become a Charity Incorporated Organistion (CIO).

Looking back we will all remember teachers who helped and guided us. We give thanks for them and should pray that God will guide us to find ways that we can help others and show us how he wants SSS to move forward to meet the challenges of today.

The service closed with the singing of 'God Bless Our School'.



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH

Judith Higgins took the service on September 12th. Her theme was 'fruits of the Spirit' as described by Paul.

She began by talking about harvest festivals. In the past, the harvest gifts would be of corn or fresh fruit and vegetables grown locally, but nowadays people may bring in fruit and vegetables grown on the other side of the world.

Our own harvest gifts will be sent to Wellspring so they will consist of packaged and canned foods which can be stored until needed.

Paul's fruits of the Spirit were very different. They were the attributes a person or community living a Christian life should strive for.

His fruits were, LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS and SELF CONTROL.

Judith looked at each of these individually and concluded with 1 Corinthians chapter 13.

"And now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity."

In this context charity means love.

If we can grow in the love of God and others then the other fruits of the Spirit will follow.

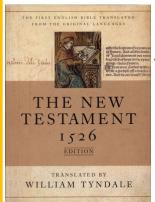
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH

When Walter Stead took the service on 19th September, he asked us how we address the people we meet from day to day:- usually Mr, Mrs or Miss before their surname or more formally Sir or Madam. Recently he was addressed informally as 'Boss'.

It's an interesting word, what does it suggest? Authority, someone telling us what to do, bossy, controlling?

What makes a good boss? Someone honest and fair who recognises good performance and gives help and support to those having difficulty. In return he expects commitment and effort.

Another form of address is 'Lord' used in Court, in period dramas and in hymns and prayers and



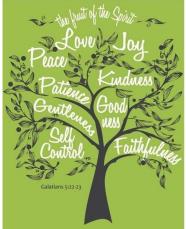
in the Bible.

In the past, the Lord of the Manor was an important person, he sat in judgement and upheld the laws of the land. To address someone as lord was to accept their authority.

Today the word has lost it's impact.

When the Bible was first printed in English the word Lord had a more powerful meaning than today. Jesus and God were referred to as Lord, meaning one with authority and power, the Boss. We need to remind ourselves of its real significance in our worship, hymns and prayers.

Jesus taught us to think of God as a loving father, but one who wants the best for us in real terms. Jesus calls us to aim for higher standards of behaviour than the rest of the world. We need to consult God, appraise our relationship with Him, and meet Him in prayer.



Walter gave us an acronym for prayer, ACTS.

A <u>adoration</u>, quietly acknowledging God's presence, his calming embrace, putting our problems to one side.

C <u>confession</u> when we have not lived up to the standards Christ taught us.

T thanksgiving for God's many blessings

S <u>supplication</u> prayers for ourselves and others, for those in need, those known to us personally or on a national or international scale.

This is one basis for prayer which can be adapted to our own needs but a way to keep our relationship with God growing and developing on our journey through our earthly life.



Thank you, Walter, you have given us a lot to think and pray about.

HARVEST FESTIVAL, SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

Our Harvest celebrations began with a harvest lunch. Thank you to those who prepared the excellent ploughman's lunch followed by apple pie and ice cream, tea or coffee.

We were pleased that the speaker for the service, Rita Waters, from St George's was able to join us for lunch.

There were twenty six people at the service and the harvest table was full of gifts representing food produced all over the world and flowers from local gardens.

The service opened with the hymn, 'Come Ye Thankful People Come', followed by thanksgiving prayers and prayers of confession with responses.



The reading was taken from Deuteronomy chapter 16. God's instructions to the Jews, how to celebrate the Passover, the feast of unleavened bread, the feast of the weeks, and the feast of the tabernacles. All these should be celebrated with rejoicing and offerings to God.

How our harvest festivals have changed over the years at one time the gifts were of fresh fruit and vegetables and flowers nowadays it is often tinned and packaged food like our own harvest.

The Jews would celebrate their three festivals in a period equivalent to our September and October celebrating the end of the harvesting of wheat, grapes and olives. Thanking God for providing them with food to see them through the winter. The Bible mentions a time of rejoicing and many of our hymns speak of rejoicing at the wonder of God's gifts to us and yet we sing them with solemn faces.





Harvest is a time to remember those in need. God set down the way this should happen. Any fruit that fell from a tree should be left for the poor to collect. Once the farmers had picked the ripe fruit from the trees they should not go back but leave the fruit that ripened later for the poor. Any grain dropped or left standing should be left for the poor to glean.

Margaret Foster has taken our feed the homeless

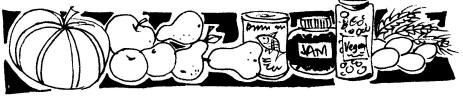
harvest gifts to Wellsprings who will use it to feed the homeless.

Rita urged us to give because we want to help others not out of a sense of duty or because it makes us feel good.

Rita asked should we continue to celebrate harvest, a time to celebrate and show our thanks to God.

We agreed we should. Harvest should be a time of thanksgiving, rejoicing, coming together, celebrating giving.

Thank you, Rita, for an interesting service. We hope to see you back at another service soon.



FUTURE SERVICES

As mentioned in the last newsletter we will try to hold a joint service once a month with an invited speaker.

Thank you to Ken Dean who has taken on the task of finding speakers for us.

Dates for your diary:-

<u>Anniversary</u> October 24th. We are pleased that Mr Frank Dean from Reddish, a local Methodist preacher, has agreed to be our speaker for this Special Service.

<u>Remembrance Sunday</u> November 14th, Speaker to be arranged

<u>Candle and Carol Service</u> December - date to be decided To be run by the members of Lancashire Hill.

We hope that we will be able to serve Christmas Lunch before this service, if Covid restrictions allow.





Lancashire Hill Sunday School



Recipe

Smoked Haddock and Sweetcorn Chowder

Serves 6

50g butter 1 small leek, finely sliced 450g potatoes, peeled and cut into 2cm chunks 40g plain flour 600ml fish or vegetable stock 1 x 198g tin of sweetcorn, drained 700g smoked haddock fillets, skinned and chopped into bite-sized pieces 600ml full-fat milk Salt and finely ground black pepper Chopped dill, to garnish

Melt butter in a large pan. Add the leek, stirring to coat in the butter, then cover with a lid and cook gently over a low heat for about 10 minutes until beginning to soften. Add potatoes and cook for a further 1-2 minutes.

Stir in the flour then and add the stock, pouring it gradually and stirring until smooth. Season with pepper to taste (do not add salt at this stage). Bring the mixture to the boil and simmer for 10-15 minutes until potatoes are tender.

Add the sweetcorn to the pan with the smoked haddock and milk, then bring to the boil and simmer gently for a further 5-10 minutes until the fish is cooked. Adjust seasoning, adding salt and pepper to taste, and garnish with dill to serve.



We may ignore, but we cannot evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. C S Lewis

> The gospel is good news. But Jesus never said it was easy news. *Charles Colson*

The following are taken from The Parish Pump.

SAINT DAY - 6TH OCTOBER: WILLIAM TYNDALE - BIBLE TRANSLATOR AND REFORMATION MARTYR

Tyndale was an outstanding English scholar, translator and martyr of the Reformation.

William Tyndale (c. 1494 - 6th October 1536) was born near Gloucester and studied at Oxford and Cambridge. He could speak seven languages and was proficient in ancient Hebrew and Greek. As a priest, his abilities would have taken him a long way, but by 1523 Tyndale's only desire was to translate the Bible, so that English men and women could read it for themselves. It became his life's passion.

For Tyndale had rediscovered a vital doctrine that the Church had been ignoring: that of justification by faith. He had found it when reading Erasmus's Greek edition of the New Testament. In fact, his life's work was well summed up in some words of his mentor, Erasmus: "Christ desires His mysteries to be published abroad as widely as possible. I would that [the Gospels and the epistles of Paul] were translated into all languages, of all Christian people, and that they might be read and known."

Tyndale's translation was the first Bible to be published in English, the first to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press.

It was to cost him his life. For Tyndale's work was seen as a direct challenge to the power of both the Roman Catholic Church and the laws of England in maintaining the Church's position.

When the authorities had tried to stop his translation, Tyndale fled to Hamburg, Wittenberg, Cologne, and finally to the Lutheran city of Worms. It was there, in 1525, his New Testament emerged. It was quickly smuggled into England, and King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others, were furious.

Tyndale moved on to Antwerp, where for nine more years he continued his work. Then in May 1535 he was betrayed, arrested, and jailed in a castle near Brussels. Tied to the stake for strangulation and burning, his dying prayer was that the King of England's eyes would be opened. Sure enough, two years later King Henry authorised the Great Bible for the Church of England, which relied largely on Tyndale's work.



Not only that, but in 1611, the 54 scholars who

produced the King James Bible drew very heavily from Tyndale. Even today we honour him: in 2002, Tyndale was placed at number 26 in the BBC's poll of 100 Greatest Britons.

"Do you know who taught the eagles to find their prey? Well, that same God teaches His hungry children to find their Father in His Word."

William Tyndale

SAINT DAY - 11TH OCTOBER: JAMES THE DEACON

James the Deacon is the saint for any lay person who has stepped in to lead their church when the clergy are far away.

In fact, an historian has called James the Deacon 'the one heroic figure' in the Roman mission to Northumbria. No wonder – in a time of political chaos, with the king murdered and even the bishop fleeing for safety, James the Deacon stood firm.

It had begun when Pope Gregory the Great sent Paulinus, Bishop of York, to take Roman Christianity to Northumbria. James the Deacon, almost certainly an Italian, was among those who went with Paulinus.

The mission began well, and Edwin the king of Northumbria was converted. Roman Christianity in Northumbria took root and began to grow. But then in 633 Edwin fell in battle with Penda, the ruthless pagan king of Mercia. A pagan backlash began. The queen and her son fled for Kent, with the bishop Paulinus going south with them.

All that was left of Roman Christianity in Northumbria was James, now a solitary deacon.

But James was made of stern stuff, and despite the danger from Penda, James stayed on at a village near Catterick, often risking his life as he cared for

the Christians, and continued to preach the gospel.

His success was discovered when the Northumbrian mission returned five to ten years later, and found an active Christian community still in Northumbria. James had been a faithful servant.

After Penda died, and Christian rule was re-established in Northumbria, James turned to teaching music, especially Gregorian Chant, to the fledgling churches in the region. Bede praised him for his honour and integrity. James was present at the Synod of Whitby in 664, which met to discuss the differences between the Celtic Northumbrian Church of the North, and the Roman Church of the South.



When James died sometime after 671, he was deeply mourned by the ordinary Christians of Northumbria, both Celtic and Roman. He had never deserted them.

REAL-LIFE CHURCH NOTICES

- * Harvest Supper Friday at 6pm. Prayer and medication to follow.
- * Jumble sale: The ladies of our church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- * At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- * Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.
- * For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

REMEMBER THE STORIES?

Remember the stories that we used to read? Heroic adventures - we loved them indeed! We'd read in the garden, if wet, in the porch, Or under the covers at night with a torch!



Our fingers would avidly trace lines of text Of what Katy Did, and what she Did Next. And, starting this journey along Mem'ry Lane We can't forget Biggles, up there in his plane!

We laughed and we laughed at Jennings at school. Tormenting his teachers by acting the fool. Just William's young friends, and their latest trick – "I'll scream and I'll scream till I make myself sick!"





Black Beauty the horse brought a tear to our eye – Some stories brought laughter, and some made us cry. Like Paddington Bear, and the things he would do Arriving by train from Darkest Peru.

There was Noddy, and Rupert, and Peter Pan, too; The woodland adventures of Winnie-the-Pooh; Little Women and Crusoe and Chalet School Girls; Just So - all such stories were wonderful pearls!





This poem could go on for page after page If your favourite is missing, please don't fill with rage -Just nip to the loft, and dig through that box, And sit down and read - ignoring the clocks!

By Nigel Beeton

In a recent conversation with an 8 year old, I was advised that books you read when you are a 'child' can be re-read as you get older and you will understand the deeper message that is being portrayed to the reader by the author, so it is alright to read books that some would say are too young for you! On thinking about this later, I realised that with some books this is very true. Even with the Bible, as a child you learn the stories in Sunday School or Church, but don't necessarily understand the true message until you re-read it as you grow over the years. This can be true with many books. Do you have a favourite book, either from childhood or one you have recently read? Maybe it is one that you think others would enjoy, if so why not send the details in to be included in the newsletter.



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Sudoku

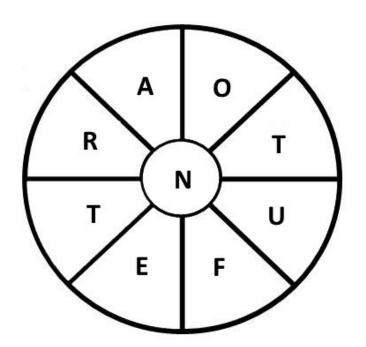
WORDSEARCH

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

HARVEST

OCTOBER brings us HARVEST THANKSGIVING, when we thank GOD for all the BOUNTY of CREATION. If you ever doubt God's GENEROSITY towards us, just stroll down the aisles of your local SUPERMARKET: they are groaning with FOOD of a VAST VARIETY, of every colour, texture and taste that you can imagine. Our God is a hedonist when it comes to food - He could have provided just a few basic EDIBLE things for us to EAT; instead, the CHOICE seems ENDLESS. But in the midst of all this bounty, take time to remember all the MILLIONS of people worldwide who are STARVING this month, DESPERATE for any kind of food. Before God in PRAYer, decide how much you can GIVE this month to one of the many CHARITIES who are trying to HELP people in need, and be generous.

ΥΑΝ F S F O L M V AB D ΗO Т O F RMA RK E Β F Ρ F F GΡ ΕB R Ο DNERNBN HSSE CHOICESNGGEKE



WORD WHEEL

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

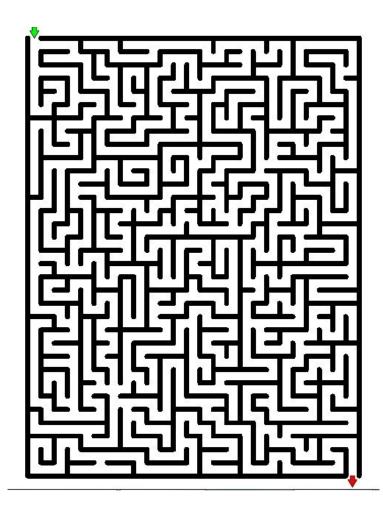
Words must be four letters or more, each word must contain the central letter N. Plurals and proper nouns are not allowed. There is at least one nine letter word.

Good score 17+ Excellent 29+



<u>MAZE</u>

Can you find your way around the maze?





CROSSWORD

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Down

1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)

2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)

4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)

5 'You are a chosen people, a priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)

6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)

7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)

8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9)(6)

13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)

15 'About three thousand were - - their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)

16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18)(6)

18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)

20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)

21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

Across

1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?" (Acts 23:4) (4)

3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)

9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)

10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)

11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)

12 Listen (anag.) (6)

14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)

17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)

19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)

22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)

23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)

24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)

25 Note (anag.) (4)



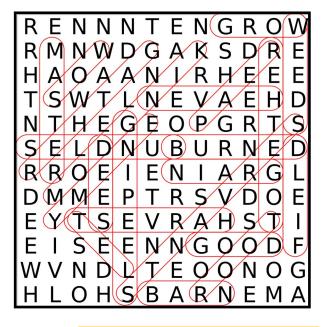
ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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7	6	5	4	9	2	3	1	8
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SUDOKU ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS





After his induction, Harry met the leaders of the other denominations

